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Central Florida Future

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HELP IS ON THE WAY
FOOTBALL'S RECRUITS

— SEE SPORTS, A7

TRUE TO ITS ROOTS
A TRIP TO THE NEW CYPRESS GARDENS

— SEE the indie, INSIDE

DEATH PAYS MORE
ON BUSH BUDGET

— SEE NEWS, A3

Turning over a new leaf



BRANDON HARDIN / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE



CHARLIE BENTON / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

Director readies his plan for upgrading the Arboretum

JORDAN CRUDO
Staff Writer

With the spring growing season just around the corner, the director of the UCF Arboretum is gearing up to restore the overgrown green heart of the campus.

Martin Quigley, a landscape architect and UCF biology professor who was named director last year, has new staff members and an operating budget and is committed to giving the Arboretum a whole new look.

"We are working on a contract to have a professionally prepared master plan for the Arboretum to guide us through the coming years," Quigley said. "Our concept is to redefine the collections areas by bio-geographical origins, such as Southeast Asian, Mediterranean, and Florida native collections, all united by a sinuous walk."

Quigley, a plant ecologist and lifelong horticulturist, said he hopes a controlled burn in the area will help jumpstart an ecosystem that was nearly wiped out in the wake of last year's hurricanes and the absence of controlled fires.

"For the Natural Areas, I have been submitting grant proposals, working with UCF administration and with other faculty members to establish a comprehensive prescribed burn program that will restore not only the Arboretum areas, but the other green areas of the campus, to a healthy native plant community," he said.

He anticipates the first burning project will begin in April.

PLEASE SEE **NEGLECTED** ON A6



CHARLIE BENTON / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

The trio of hurricanes that passed through Central Florida last summer took a toll on the Arboretum, top; a hibiscus flower lies on a broken plank of wood, above; and a broken picnic area inside the Arboretum laid in ruins last week. The Arboretum had gone without a permanent director for several months last year. The new director, Martin Quigley of the biology department expects to start on restoration this year.

FAFSA first step in aid process

Scrambling for money
for summer starts now

VANESSA FERNANDEZ
Contributing Writer

With tuition prices increasing for Fall 2005 and the Free Application for Federal Student Aid deadline coming up, now's the time to start looking for financial aid.

"Financial aid is the only reason I'm here," forensics science major Natalie Mejia said. Mejia has several grants and scholarships that she uses to pay for school, and also has Florida Prepaid. "It was enough to cover my tuition and dorm for this year, but because of chemistry, my GPA is lower than what it needs to be to keep my scholarships, so there is a lot of pressure on me this semester."

She isn't alone. Annie Delva said, "Without financial aid, I would have gone to a community college."

However, some students aren't sure if they qualify for financial aid, or don't know where to go to find it. Here's a brief guide.

FAFSA

First things first: Fill out the FAFSA. Students can complete the form online at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov> or through Polaris at <http://myucf.edu>.

The school code for UCF is 003954. The FAFSA must be filled out every year — even if students applied last year, they must reapply this year. UCF's priority deadline to submit the FAFSA is March 1.

Those who miss the priority deadline should apply as soon as possible, or they won't be considered for many grants or loans. Those applying later than July 15 may not see their aid until well after the beginning of the fall semester and, chances are, will have to pay for some of their own expenses.

Lisa Minnick, an associate director of the Office of Student Financial Assistance, sent an e-mail last week to all current and prospective UCF students reminding them about financial aid for the fall.

After submitting the FAFSA, UCF students should be sure to check Polaris often for any updates and respond promptly to any requests for further information. To be on the safe side, students should keep copies of everything they send out and start a financial aid folder to keep organized.

Grants

One of the many doors to financial aid FAFSA opens is the grant. Grants are awards that don't ever have to be paid back.

There are three basic types of grants available for UCF students. The Pell Grant is available only to students who have never received a bachelor's degree, but the amount of this grant changes from year to year depending on enrollment status.

The Florida Student Assistance

PLEASE SEE **GRANTS** ON A3

United UCF decides Bentley should be in the driver's seat

The SGA VP nabs the
ticket's nomination to
run for presidency

MARK JUSTICE
Staff Writer

After SGA Senate Speaker Sean Lavin announced last week that he would not run as United UCF's candidate for student body president, party leaders knew they had big shoes to fill. Shortly after they approached him, Willie Bentley Jr. — a solid size 16 — made official his decision to

embrace the party and its support.

Bentley, currently the student body vice president, said he found "the missions and goals of United UCF most appealing," and added that it best represents his campaign cornerstones of experience, integrity and vision.

Stefanie Matthews, a member of United UCF instrumental in the process behind the decision to endorse Bentley, said he is "an excellent choice." Later she described Bentley as a "hard worker" and "very



Signed petitions for candidacy due by 4 p.m. today in the SGA office.

Candidates must collect 500 signatures. Election of student body president is Feb. 21-23. A runoff, if necessary, will take place Feb. 28-March 2.

dedicated to his position."

Soon after the party found itself in need of a candidate, its members voted and identified Bentley as the candidate they wanted to support.

United UCF's decision to endorse Bentley for president and his running mate, McClain Woolsey, as vice presi-

dent, put to rest rumors that Sen. Joshua Edmundson would garner the party's support in his apparent run for the vice presidency with presidential candidate Keith Rea. Candidates have until 4 p.m. today to formally declare their candidacies by turning in petitions at the SGA office. The SGA election is Feb. 21-23.

United UCF chose Bentley despite Edmundson's active role in the party when the organization claimed the majority of the seats in the Senate last fall. Some members of United UCF see Edmundson's apparent decision



MICHAEL SNEAD / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

Willie Bentley Jr., an early declared candidate for student body president, was Homecoming King last fall.

PLEASE SEE **REA** ON A5

Around Campus

News and notices for
the UCF community

A Spike Lee film

A screening of Lee's Oscar-nominated documentary *4 Little Girls* will be held at 7 p.m. today at the Welcome Center Auditorium.

For more information, contact Mary Price at 407-823-4195.

Let's talk

The Center for Multilingual Multicultural Studies holds a weekly Conversation Hour at 1 p.m. today in the Barbara Ying International Center.

For more information, contact Lucja Wasowska at 407-823-5515.

Make a card

Make Valentine's Day cards for the young ladies at the Pace School for girls at noon today during the Volunteer UCF Expo.

For more information, e-mail Arianne at ariliz822@aol.com.

Fall into a trance

Hypnotist Tom DeLuca returns to UCF at 8 p.m. tomorrow in the Pegasus Ballroom Student Union. The show is free.

For more information, contact Diana Perry at 407-823-6471.

Yard sale

To raise funds for the Children's Miracle Network, Dance Marathon will have a yard sale from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at the Waterford Lakes Shopping Center in front of Office Max.

If you would like to donate items, e-mail Tara at CABDM@mail.ucf.edu.

Black history

The African American Student Union will present the Black History Month Field Day at 10 a.m. Saturday at the Lake Claire Pavilion.

For more information, e-mail Mackenzie Jordan at msc@mail.ucf.edu.

Money talks

Career Services will hold an Interview Techniques Workshop at 10:30 a.m. Monday in the Student Resource Center Room 185.

For more information, contact Career Services at 407-823-2361.

Corrections

In a Jan. 31 editorial "Let Heather and her daddies stay," there is a reference to the children's book *Heather Has Two Daddies*. The correct title of the book is *Heather Has Two Mommies*.

Due to an editing mistake, the amount of money political and social activism groups on campus received was reported as \$165,507 [Senate foots bill for food, slashes budget for activists, Jan. 31]. The actual amount was 4.6 percent of \$165,507, a total of \$7,613.32 this year.

Let us know

The *Future* wants to hear from you! If you have a club, organization or event and want your information to be considered for the Around Campus column, send a fax to 407-447-4556 or an e-mail to editor@ucfnews.com. Deadlines are 5 p.m. Tuesday for the Thursday edition, and 5 p.m. Friday for the Monday edition.

Iraqis plan future and count ballots

Democracy may be on its way, but will take time getting there, experts say

MARIANNE HAYES
Contributing Writer

With the ink still wet, ballots in Iraq are being counted by hand. For the first time in decades, the newly liberated Iraq is taking a swing at democracy.

Since Saddam Hussein's fall from grace in 2003, the nation has slowly begun to rebuild. But after billions of American dollars spent and thousands of lives lost, many are left wondering what this election means for the troubled nation.

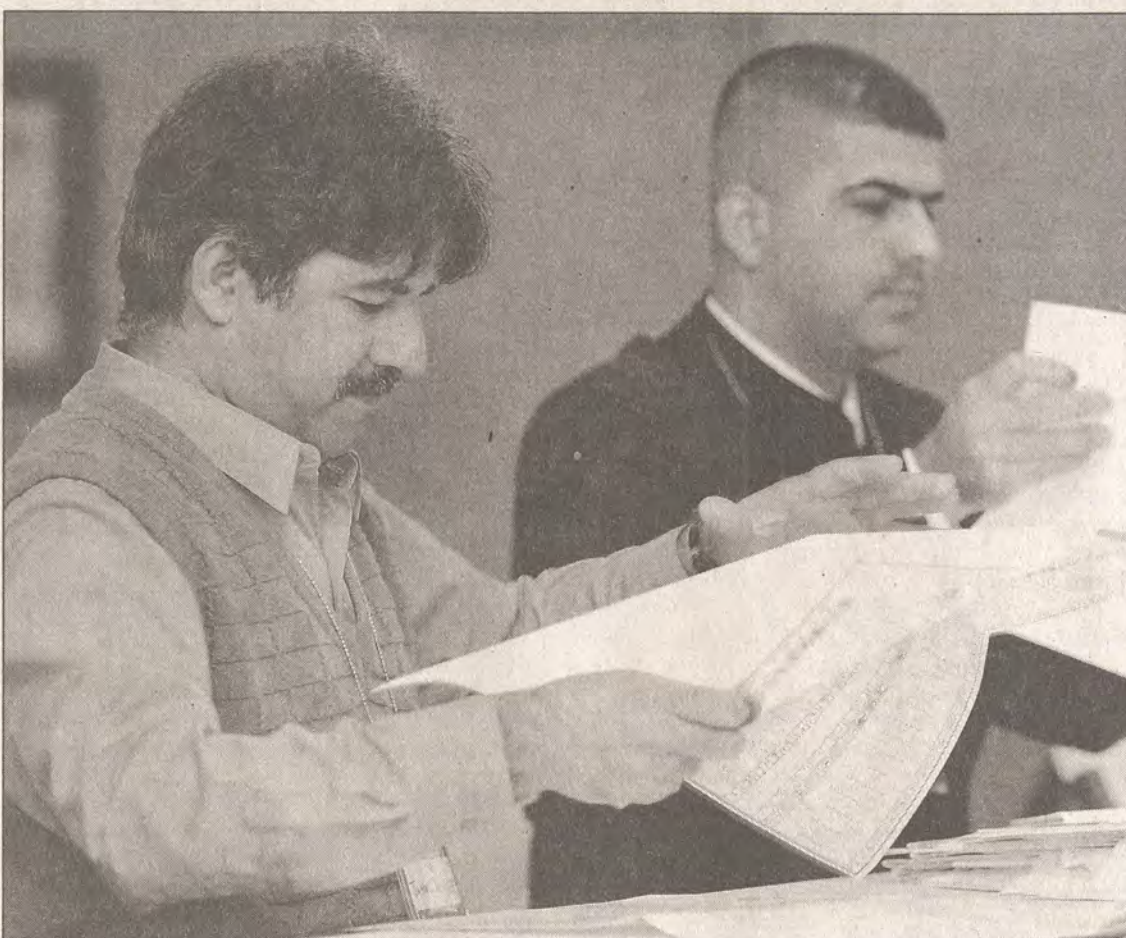
On Sunday, Iraq held a free election in which 8 million Iraqis cast their vote. On Monday, President Bush referred to the election as a "resounding success." Additionally, experts say that despite the alarming amount of death threats by insurgents, the election was relatively nonviolent.

"President Bush did the right thing in pushing the elections," UCF political science assistant professor Chris Dolan said.

Dolan predicts that the strong Sunni insurgency is not likely to fade away any time soon. "U.S. forces will remain in Iraq for years to come."

America's main objective in staying there is to train Iraq's security forces. White House spokesman Scott McClellan said in a press conference Monday that U.S. troops will stay until Iraqi security forces are fully trained and equipped. He added that the troops will return home with honor after they put Iraq on the path to democracy.

"They're a long way away from becoming a democracy,"



Iraqi election ballots are sorted in Nashville, Tenn. More than 95 percent of the 3,930 Iraqi expatriates who registered in Nashville cast ballots.

Jennifer Stevens, 22, said, "but they're on the right track. It's a very positive thing that these people are now exercising their human rights, but I don't think that it was America's place to step in and help them do so. War was not the answer. So many U.S. soldiers are dead, and we're even more in debt now."

Regardless of the American presence in Iraq, the fact still remains that this election will establish a national assembly there. Eventually, a president will be selected, and a new Iraqi constitution will be written.

More than 7,000 candidates running from more than 100 different political parties were on the ballot.

U.S.-appointed Prime Minister Ayad Allawi was among the most popular of the candidates, as were members of the United Iraqi Alliance, made up mostly of those representing assorted Shiite groups.

"It is hard to imagine how the Kurdish and Shiite parties are going to manage the fact that the Sunni religious minority that ruled Iraq off and on for centuries largely boycotted the election," Dolan added.

According to CNN.com, voter turnout in the Sunni Triangle towns north and west of Baghdad were lower than in the largely Shiite and Kurdish provinces. Additionally, the International Election Commission of Iraq announced that they will release the election results soon.

"I'm excited about the results of the election for a lot of reasons," UCF student Scott Gurley, 26, said. "I think that it probably took a lot for the Iraqi people to face the dangers presented by insurgents."

Police Beat

Crime doesn't pay when stealing campus bikes

AMBER FOSTER
Staff Writer

Marlo Stanek was charged with resisting an officer without violence and loitering/prowling after attempting to steal bicycles at an on-campus bicycle rack Dec. 2.

Cpl. Woody Furnas was initially responding to a suspicious person call by a woman but then received information that the suspect was at a bike rack fiddling with bike locks.

Stanek walked away from the rack when he noticed Furnas, who had to run to catch up with the suspect.

Furnas told Stanek to turn around, place his hands on his head and drop a paper bag he was holding, but Stanek refused to follow any of the officer's directions. Furnas grabbed the bag and attempted to pat down Stanek, who resisted.

The suspect could not stick to one reason when asked why he was on campus. He said that he got off a bus and was

looking for somewhere to eat but then said he was looking for the office to register for classes.

He then told Furnas that he had worked all day for a roofing company but later recanted that story, as well. At this point, Furnas read Stanek his Miranda rights.

Stanek said he was looking at a "Fuji" bicycle, but a bike of that model was not on the rack. He also told the officer that he was trying to get to Lakeside Alternatives at Eatonville, a mental health and substance abuse treatment center.

According to the police report, Stanek had a screwdriver, a pair of vice grip pliers and \$325.23 (which Stanek said was from a government check).

Stanek was then handcuffed and placed under arrest.

Drugs on a bike

Construction worker

William Ferguson was arrested and charged with trespassing and possession of drug paraphernalia Dec. 15 after Sgt. Dale Dennany recognized him from an initial trespass warning four days earlier.

Ferguson was riding a silver bicycle along Libra Drive when Dennany stopped him at approximately 5:45 p.m.

The suspect stated he was on campus looking for a job. Most campus offices were closed due to the holiday break, and those not closed because of the break were closed because business hours had passed.

Dennany searched Ferguson's backpack and found a JVC radio faceplate container, which held a crack pipe and a Brillo pad. According to the police report, the Brillo pad is used as a filter and to clean the pipe.

Ferguson was placed under arrest with bail set at \$500.

Loud music suspended

Wildor Virgile Jr. was charged with driving with a

suspended license Jan. 30 after first supplying someone else's suspended license.

Officer Matthew Fazi stopped Virgile because his music exceeded the acceptable volume, which is that it should not be audible from 100 feet away.

When asked for his license, Virgile gave the officer a Florida driver's license belonging to Wesner Daniel Tanelus.

Upon checking the license, Fazi found that it was suspended multiple times. Virgile was put under arrest and put into Fazi's police car.

During a pre-towing inventory, Officer Mario Jenkins found Virgile's license on the passenger seat. This license also showed that it was suspended multiple times.

Virgile first stated that he gave Fazi the wrong license on accident, but then said he did it because he was afraid of getting into trouble.

The suspect was transported to the Orange County central booking office. His car was towed.

Nation & World

Florida doctor, two Arizona men indicted for Botox knockoff

MIAMI — A Florida doctor and two physicians from Arizona have been indicted on federal charges that they engaged in fraud and the misbranding of an anti-wrinkling toxin similar to Botox that led to the paralysis of four people, including the Florida doctor himself, prosecutors said.

The 48-count indictment issued by a federal grand jury accused the three along with four Tucson, Ariz.-based companies of conspiracy to defraud the United States.

Three other doctors were also charged with engaging in mail and wire fraud and misbranding of a drug.

Prosecutors said they would seek the forfeiture of \$1.5 million in proceeds that TRI received.

Four people were hospitalized in November after being injected with a knockoff wrinkle-remover similar to Botox in November. Federal investigators say some were injected with a mixture of botulism toxin 10 times stronger than Botox.

American Idol makers sue for copyright infringement

MIAMI — The makers of *American Idol* are suing a Peruvian television company, claiming its *Superstar* show has copied the hit talent contest program.

FremantleMedia—North America Inc., FremantleMedia Ltd. and 19TV Ltd. filed the lawsuit in federal court last Wednesday. They want Panamericana Television SA to be barred from showing *Superstar* in the United States.

The producers of *American Idol*, which airs on the Fox network, allege that *Superstar* infringes on their copyright. The lawsuit lists the similarities between the two shows, including having two supportive judges and a caustic one.

Several workers reached by The Associated Press at Panamericana in Lima, Peru, declined to comment.

FremantleMedia and the other producers fear that Panamericana may try to bring *Superstar* to the United States to appeal to the country's large Spanish-speaking audience, the lawsuit said.

Last month, TV viewers turned out 33.5 million strong for the debut of the fourth season of *American Idol*.

Groundhog Punxsutawney Phil's prediction: more winter to come

PUNXSUTAWNEY, Pa. — Punxsutawney Phil has spoken, and the news isn't good.

The world's most famous furry forecaster saw his shadow Wednesday on Gobbler's Knob, suggesting another six weeks of wintry weather.

The chubby critter delivered the prediction after he was pulled from his burrow in an oak stump at 7:31 a.m. by a top-hatted handler, and his prediction was greeted by boos from the thousands in attendance.

In the years since *The Punxsutawney Spirit* first carried word of the groundhog's failing to see its shadow in

PLEASE SEE NATION ON A4

Central Florida Future

The Student Newspaper Serving UCF Since 1968

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Death payouts to increase

Bush proposes giving families of dead soldiers more

NATHAN POEKERT
Senior Staff Writer

Thousands of families have grieved the loss of a loved one in the Middle East over the past four years. Soldiers have left behind wives, husbands and often children after dying in combat.

Should a soldier die while serving in a combat zone, the government sends the family a "death gratuity" of about \$12,000.

On Monday, Pentagon officials announced that President Bush has proposed raising the payment from \$12,000 to \$100,000. Bush will submit the proposal as part of his 2006 budget next week.

The families of all soldiers who die in combat will receive the gratuity. In addition, all families who have had a soldier die in combat since the United States invaded Afghanistan on Oct. 7, 2001, will receive a retroactive payment, according to the proposal.

The \$100,000 gratuity package will only add to the staggering amount that the United States has already spent in the Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts.

"Any family whose loved one died while training or in combat deserves to be compensated,"

said Shelane Etchison, a student in the UCF Army ROTC. "However, we are in such debt right now, I don't know if it is really necessary. I can understand if the person who died had a spouse and kids, but do parents really need that much money?"

According to congressional aides, Bush will also announce a need for \$80 billion for 2005 to continue wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"When the war first started, we were told that it would be around \$30 billion," senior Meaghen Ryan said. "I think that American citizens should be able to see exactly how the money is being spent before we invest more of our tax dollars toward the war."

The advertising and public relations major also said that the gratuity packages are not enough for all who have died while serving their country.

"The only problem I really have with the gratuity is that it only covers those who have died in Iraq or Afghanistan or in future wars. What about all those who died in the terrorist attacks in Yemen?"

Ryan is one of many U.S. citizens who opposes the spending for the war. The war in Iraq currently has a 42 percent approval rating, according to a recent poll by *USA Today*.

Some members of the UCF community, however, think the packages and the budget are necessary to complete the work started in Iraq.

"War's not cheap," psychology major Shane George said. "While the money spent is a lot more than we were initially told, I still think that what we are doing over there needed to be done."

According to ROTC student Etchison, it's not a matter of being for or against the war. "I supported this war when it started, and I still support it now," she said. "I definitely support our military and the things we have done in Iraq, but I think that our government needs to be more conscious of our money situation."

Some families might not see the extra money because of a stipulation in the bill.

Only families of soldiers who were in specified combat zones would receive \$100,000. Families of soldiers who died while training in the United States would receive only the \$12,000. Some members of Congress feel that all those who have died in service should receive the full benefit.

Four years ago, the death gratuity was only \$6,000. Defense officials felt that number was too low. The gratuity was then doubled in 2003 to \$12,000. The 2003 bill also made the payment tax-free, whereas before the payment was taxed at 50 percent.

According to supporters of the bill, the gratuity will cost an estimated \$459 million in the first year. This figure also includes about \$280 million in retroactive payments.

Grants, scholarships aren't paid back

FROM A1

Grant is funded by the state of Florida and is available to students who have the required financial need. Just as with the Pell Grant, the amount received fluctuates from year to year depending on enrollment status.

According to the Office of Student Financial Assistance, to receive FSAG, students must apply each year, be a Florida resident, meet eligibility for the Pell Grant, not owe any money on a loan and be enrolled in their first undergraduate degree program.

Another grant available is the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant. This grant is awarded on a limited basis to students with great financial need. Students must apply by March 1 to be considered for this grant, and they need to have applied for FAFSA.

Scholarships

Many UCF students benefit from the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program, and there are some things to be aware of concerning this scholarship.

In order to renew the Bright Futures Scholarship, students must have successfully completed a certain number of credit hours and have a certain GPA after the end of the spring semester.

The Florida Academic Scholars Award (the 100 percent tuition scholarship), requires a minimum of six completed credit hours for each term and a 3.0 GPA.

Freshman Lewis Lowry said, "I got the 100 percent Bright

Futures and the Bronze Scholarship from UCF. I didn't get any need-based financial aid, only merit-based. Because of this, I feel adequately pressured to do well in my classes."

For students who received the Medallion Scholars Award or the Gold Seal Vocational Scholars Award (75 percent tuition scholarship), after the spring semester is completed recipients must have at least a 2.75 GPA and have completed at least six credit hours for each semester that year.

"I received the 75 percent Bright Futures and I had the Florida Prepaid. Having that financial assistance is such a convenience," freshman Valerie Cepero said.

Those who don't meet the requirements to renew the scholarships can file a scholarship appeal form with the financial aid office. The form is also found on the UCF financial aid Web site at <http://finaid.ucf.edu>.

Official ineligibility notices are e-mailed to students during the summer.

Bright Futures is not available in the summertime. Those planning on attending summer school (nine credit hours must be completed during the summer in order to graduate), need to have backup financial aid.

For students considering applying for other scholarships, UCF lists several at <http://finaid.ucf.edu/scholist.htm>.

On the first floor of Millican Hall, the Office of Student Financial Aid has a board listing scholarships that are available. Be sure to watch for eligibility requirements and deadlines.

Loans can lead to an interesting future

"If there's one thing I've learned, it's that you never ever, ever take a loan unless you absolutely are going to die without one," freshmen and legal studies major Valerie Cepero said.

However, the concept of loans and taking a loan is not as scary as it sounds. UCF offers three basic loan programs to students who need some extra financial aid: the Federal Perkins Loan, the Federal PLUS Loan and the Federal Stafford Loan. According to the Office of Student Financial Assistance, to apply for the Stafford Loan you must have submitted the FAFSA and be classified as a degree-seeking student at UCF. The Stafford Loan comes in two different forms: a subsidized loan and an unsubsidized loan.

With the subsidized Stafford Loan, the government pays the interest to the lender while the student is attending school. Once the student graduates, he or she is responsible for paying back the interest on the loan, as well as the amount on the loan itself.

With the unsubsidized version of the Stafford Loan, the student is responsible for all the interest incurred with the loan.

To apply for the Stafford Loan students must have a current FAFSA on file, complete the Federal Stafford Loan request form and complete the entrance interview if this is the first time the student is taking out a loan. After that, it is important to check Polaris for anything else that needs to be done.

Another loan offered to UCF students is the Federal PLUS Loan. This loan is credit-based and should be completed by the student's parents. According to the Office of Student Financial Assistance's Web site, the first step when filing for this loan is to fill out the Federal PLUS Loan request form and then check either your mail or e-mail for any notifications. If, after they run a credit check, you are denied assistance from this loan, there is an unsubsidized version as well.

The third loan available to students is the Perkins Loan. According to the Office of Student Financial Assistance, this is the only loan with an interest rate of 5 percent. However, you do not have to repay the loan until after you have finished school. As with the Stafford Loan, you must complete the FAFSA to be considered for this loan.

Freshmen Annie Devla received the Stafford Loan this year, and she said, "I didn't want to get into loans at all, but I had to. I still hate it, and I won't take anymore. They won't contact me until I graduate, but I'm dreading that phone call."

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For more information regarding eligibility, the online application process, and selection criteria, please visit
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Jason Kucma
Third-Year Student

Higher Education

Group claims textbook prices are increasing beyond inflation

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — A report from an Alaska consumer advocacy group claims textbook prices are skyrocketing and contributing to students being priced out of college.

The report says textbook prices are increasing at more than four times the inflation rate for all finished goods. Wholesale prices charged by textbook publishers have jumped 62 percent since 1994, while prices for all finished goods only increased 14 percent.

Steve Cleary, executive director of the Alaska Public Interest Research Group, cited new editions and the bundling of books with CDs and other products as unnecessary cost increases.

At the University of Alaska-Anchorage, the total estimated costs of attending per semester are about \$8,700 for off-campus students. Of that, the university estimates students pay \$1,344 per semester for tuition and \$482 for books.

The campus bookstore, which is a part of the university and is nonprofit, increases the prices of its books by 28 percent from the wholesale purchasing price. The industry standard in the Lower 48 is about 26 percent. Joyce Colajezzi, director of the bookstore, said the difference is from shipping costs to Alaska.

President: Utah Valley State College is misunderstood

OREM, Utah — Utah Valley State College is misunderstood — it really isn't rejecting moral values, the college's president says.

William Sederburg cited the visit of filmmaker Michael Moore, a concert by rapper Nelly and a class on homosexual literature as things that have caused community leaders and legislators to question the moral direction of Utah Valley State College.

Sederburg said he feels the school is definitely morally grounded. Only 11 percent of students admit to having had alcohol within the past month.

Penn State prof charged with 25 counts of child sexual abuse

PHILADELPHIA — A Penn State professor emeritus who is regarded as an expert on early-childhood education and autism is facing more than 25 charges of child sexual abuse dating to the late 1970s.

The alleged victim contends that he was repeatedly abused for several years by the professor and two other men starting when he was 12 years old.

The accused professor is the author of at least a dozen books on early-childhood education and autism.

Colleges to throw super parties to keep students off the streets

PLYMOUTH, N.H. — The state's colleges and universities say they don't expect any student disturbances following this weekend's Super Bowl, but are preparing just in case.

On Sunday, the college is throwing a Super Bowl party at the student union building, offering pizza and soft drinks, T-shirts and a raffle at the end of the night for a semester of free books.

The school is trying to avoid street disturbances like those after last fall's baseball playoffs.

Second murder of student in a year shows crime problem

BALTIMORE — It's the nation's most prestigious medical research institute, endowed with about \$1.9 billion in government and private funding. But Johns Hopkins University also has become a place where it's easy to find victims of crime.

Students describe a renowned institution besieged by crime that spills over from nearby areas.

The killing of a Hopkins senior Jan. 23 has underscored the sense of vulnerability students feel in a city where there has been virtually a murder a day since the beginning of the new year.

— ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nation & World



Sunni leaders said the Iraqi elections are invalid because many Sunnis did not vote.

FROM A2

1886, this town of 7,500 people about 65 miles northeast of Pittsburgh has been dubbed the "Weather Capital of the World."

The tradition stems from the Christian holiday of Candlemas and the belief that if a hibernating animal sees its shadow, winter will last another six weeks. If there's no shadow, spring will come early.

That was the forecast from Lilburn, Ga., groundhog Gen. Beauregard Lee, who did not see his shadow when he emerged as light rain fell Wednesday morning.

Influential group of Sunni clerics calls Iraq's vote illegitimate

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Iraq's leading Sunni Muslim clerics said Wednesday the country's landmark elections lacked legitimacy because large numbers of Sunnis did not participate in the balloting, which the religious leaders had asked them to boycott.

Emboldened by the elections, which U.S. and Iraqi authorities cited as a victory for democracy, the police chief in Mosul demanded the insurgents hand over weapons within two weeks or he would "wipe out" anyone giving them shelter.

The level of insurgent violence has appeared to drop sharply after the election.

It is unclear whether the drop is due to disillusionment within insurgent ranks, the effects of the stringent pre-election security measures that are being slowly relaxed, or whether the militants have paused to reassess their strategy in light of the ballot.

Large numbers of majority Shiite Muslims and Kurds participated in Sunday's election for a new National Assembly and regional parliaments. Although no results or turnout figures have been released, U.S. officials say participation appeared much lower in Sunni areas where the insurgency is strongest.

The low turnout has been blamed variously on the clerics' own boycott call and on fears of insurgent reprisals against those who voted.

In its first statement since the balloting, the Association of Muslim Scholars said the vote lacked legitimacy because of low Sunni participation. The association months ago urged Sunnis to shun the polls because of the presence of U.S. and other foreign troops, and insurgents threatened to kill anyone who voted.

— ASSOCIATED PRESS

Week in Science

NASEEM SOWTI
Senior Staff Writer

Had they been in their right minds, they would never have thrown their friend out of a moving vehicle. But a group of students "all drunk, threw their buddy out of the car, just to try it and see what happens," said Dr. James Schaus of a recent incident that was a result of alcohol intoxication.

A recent UCF survey indicates that alcohol reigns on this campus as the No. 1 abused drug, said Schaus, a family practice physician at the Student Health Center. In fact, 36 percent of "UCF men and women admit to one occasion of high-risk drinking in the past two weeks," he added. The national average is near that number at 40 percent.

High-risk drinking is defined as four or more drinks for women and five or more drinks for men on one occasion — be it throughout one day or one hour. It's also called binge drinking.

"But we refrain from that terminology, because binge drinking carries a connotation that the person is alcohol-dependent," Schaus said.

High-risk drinking is, in fact, a better word for the behavior since it usually results in high-risk behavior, so much that 1,400 deaths in the college-age population are a result of alcohol overdose.

Moreover, 600,000 injuries per year result from alcohol intoxication because "alcohol decreases inhibition and leads to high-risk behavior," Schaus said.

And students have resorted to other drugs to deal with the stress of college: marijuana.

Based on a survey conduct-

ed at random at UCF, 18 percent of students admitted to using marijuana in the past 30 days and 32 percent in the past year, making it the second-most abused drug on campus.

Excluding alcohol, marijuana prevalence is twice as high as all other drugs at UCF, according to the Schaus.

"A lot of kids use marijuana as medication rather than recreation, and a bit of it is not going to have major consequences," he explained.

Scientifically, it has been shown that marijuana activates the cannabis receptors in the brain, which are the "forget centers." This could be the reason why the sweet-smelling plant is relaxing and can treat insomnia.

But the studies have also shown that unlike alcohol, marijuana does not wash out of the body over night. Rather, it stays in the brain for two to three days and results in partial memory impairment, especially if it is used continually.

"Using marijuana is like doing the opposite of what you go to college for," Schaus explained. "You're tying your hands behind your back because you are decreasing your brain's ability to incorporate knowledge."

Schaus attributes the high rates of drug abuse to the high-stress environment of college.

"College kids today have more stress than any other generation," he said. He cited difficult economic situations, in addition to having to work while taking classes, as some of the major factors making college a high-stress environment.

But drugs are not the solution.

The UCF Student Health Center, UCF Counseling Center and REACH Peer Education are sources that can help students battle their drug problems.

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Pick your Flavor

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5 Wings & Wedge Fries

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5.49

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Hot Honey BBQ

Teriyaki
Honey Teriyaki
Hot Honey Teriyaki
Nuclear Honey Teriyaki
Cajun Teriyaki

Honey Mustard
Hot Honey Mustard
Cajun
Lemon Pepper
Cool Ranch
Jerk

Secretary: No more payoffs

Department of Education smarts from recent trials

BEN FELLER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Education Secretary Margaret Spellings says she will aggressively oversee the ways her department promotes its agenda, after flaps over a hired media pundit and gay characters on an episode of a children's show dominated her first days on the job.

"We need to know what we're getting," Spellings told The Associated Press on Tuesday in her first interview as secretary. "I mean, we need to have a clearer, brighter line so that we don't discover late in the process that this is what is coming down the pike."

As for the major education development of the Bush administration, the No Child

Left Behind law, she said she might consider changing enforcement if legitimate concerns emerge. She named such possible areas as the testing of disabled children or teacher-quality struggles in rural regions. But she said some topics are off the table, including regular testing, which she called "the linchpin of the whole doggone thing."

At 47, Spellings is the new public face of education for the administration, but she has spent a decade as a senior adviser to George W. Bush in Texas and as his domestic policy chief in the White House.

She is the first mom with school-aged children to be education secretary. One of her daughters attends a Catholic high school, the other a public middle school, both in Alexandria, Va.

Less than two weeks after replacing Rod Paige, Spellings is promising change.

The Education Department has shut down its contract with Ketchum, the public rela-

tions firm hired primarily to promote Bush's education law. Of the \$1.3 million contract, about \$240,000 went to commentator Armstrong Williams. The money went toward the production of ads, the department says, although Williams was also hired to promote the law in other ways.

"There's nobody who's more concerned about the credibility of this department and the credibility of No Child Left Behind — and how those two go together — than I am," Spellings said. "And I have a high interest in making sure that we address this and move on."

Spellings said she and her chief of staff, David Dunn, who spent time at the department last year, did not know the agency had hired Williams until some point after the contract was signed. The department's inspector general is investigating the Williams deal.

PLEASE SEE **SPELLINGS** ON A6

Rea, Edmundson not running on ticket

FROM A1

to run as Rea's vice president as a defection to the Golden Ticket, the minority party in the Senate, which Rea appears to lead.

Rea, however, said that he and Edmundson aren't run-

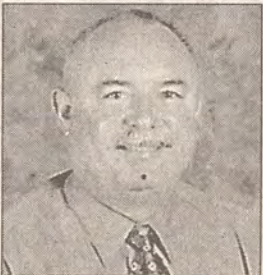
ning on a ticket. "It's just me and Edmundson," he said.

Bentley said he respects the manner in which United UCF members "vote on issues" and "actually represent their constituents." He also cited "the diversity behind the philosophy of United UCF" and his

belief that it "allows more students to feel welcome in SGA" as large factors influencing his decision.

Bentley said he and Woolsey are "a complete ticket representing different groups, with SGA experience that encompasses all aspects."

Ask a doc



LARRY M. LANGFORD, ARNP-C
UCF Health Services

I have never been to the Student Health Center. How do I get seen, and what can I expect?

You can schedule a visit to the Health Center by either calling 407-823-3850 or walking inside to make an appointment.

Alternatively, if you are acutely ill you can be seen on a walk-in basis by the urgent care provider. In a walk-in situation, the nurse facilitator will decide if you need to be seen

urgently or if you can be scheduled for a return visit.

There are essentially three clinics within the Health Center — Primary Care, Urgent Care, and the Women's Clinic. Other services include allergy injections, routine immunizations, Consult-a-Nurse, and a pharmacy. The health care team consists of medical assistants, licensed practical nurses, registered nurses, advanced registered nurse practitioners, physician assistants, physicians and pharmacists.

When you schedule a visit, you will be asked to arrive about 15 minutes before your appointment time. There are several reserved parking spaces for patients adjacent to the building. When you check in at the reception desk, ask for a temporary parking pass to place on your dashboard.

After you have been checked in, the medical assistant will call you in for a check of vital signs including height, weight, temperature, pulse, and blood pressure. When the examination room becomes available, the floor nurse or assistant will escort you to the room and enter the reason for your visit into the computer.

Student medical records are electronic and are available

from any computer within the Health Center. There may be a need for you to change into a gown, shorts or drape for your examination.

The provider will discuss your concerns and do a physical examination to determine your diagnosis. In some cases, laboratory tests or X-rays may be needed. At the completion of your visit, the provider will discuss your treatment, which may include a prescription and, in some cases, a brief period of observation. In certain instances patients are administered injections or IV solutions.

The Student Health Center places a great deal of emphasis on privacy issues, but keep in mind that at any given time there will be many other students in the Center.

Hours of operation during the fall and spring semesters are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday. During summer terms and on semester breaks the Health Center is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. The Center is closed on Sundays and holidays.

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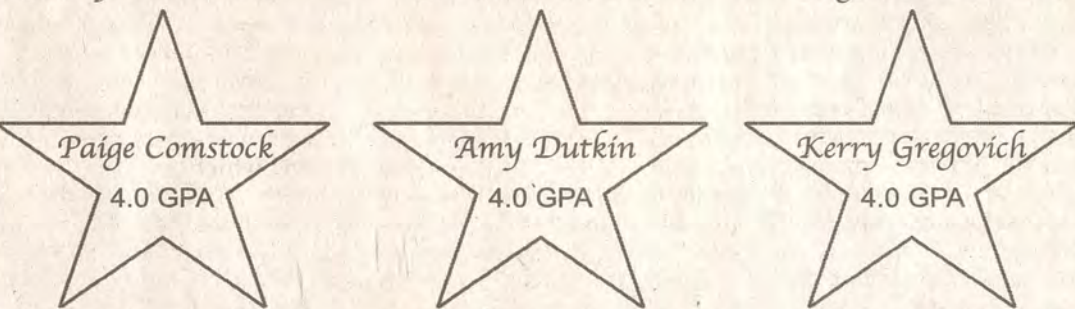


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Make A Difference



SGA Student Advocacy Open Forum
Wednesday February 9th 1:00 pm
Key West 218 CD

The Student Advocacy Unit hosts several open forums throughout the semester to give students the opportunity to ask questions and voice their concerns on issues ranging from the Golden Rule to the Activity and Service Fee budget. For more information log on to <http://www.sga.ucf.edu>

Spellings: Parents must deal with lifestyle issues with kids in own way

FROM A5

"Is it right and appropriate to educate communities about this law? Yes," she said. "Is it right to pay columnists who represent themselves as legitimate news people? No."

Spellings defended her criticism of PBS for producing an episode of *Postcards from Buster* that included two lesbian couples. The department provides money for the children's show through a federal

program designed to help kids learn through television.

PBS has decided not to distribute the show, but some stations are running it anyway.

"On lifestyle issues, I think it's appropriate for parents to deal with those and address those as they see fit, in their own way and in their own time," Spellings said. "I believe that as a mother, and I believe that as a policy-maker. For the Department of Education or public broadcasting to get into

things that are, you know, in a grayer area, is just not something we need to do."

Asked if her move signals a more conservative approach from the department, Spellings said the agency won't get into such local matters as whether a gay teacher leads a classroom. It will get involved, she said, when federal tax dollars are being used.

The heart of Spellings' agenda is getting all children at least to grade level in reading and

math, the central goal of No Child Left Behind. That remains a huge undertaking, as many students, particularly poor and minority kids, remain below federal standards in the basics.

In the interview, Spellings said that "horror stories" about the law have more to do with misunderstandings than the law itself.

It's the department's job, she said, to help end the "misinformation and anxiety" among

people who think the law is forcing them to cut arts classes, gym or even their spelling bee.

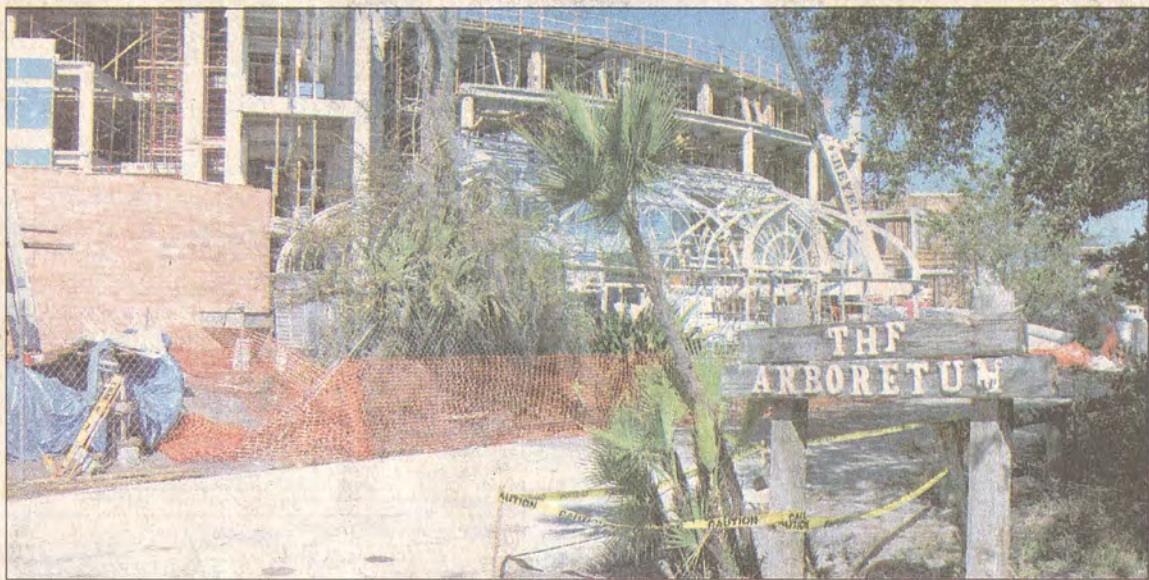
Schools officials have welcomed her early pledge to listen to complaints about the law, which demands higher student performance and penalizes many schools that fall short.

But Spellings added Tuesday: "I don't want people to misperceive that we're open for business, and that No Child Left Behind is up — it's not."

In fact, Spellings will lead

Bush's campaign to expand the law by requiring two more years of state testing in high schools. Some members of Congress are balking, but Spellings said support from governors and federal promises of more aid will help build support. Asked when the administration will push Congress to take it up, Spellings said: "In four years, I've learned one thing, and that is you cannot predict the timetable of Congress."

Neglected Arboretum will get first scheduled burning soon



The Arboretum sign is surrounded by caution tape. The greenhouse is in the background, and behind that is Engineering III construction.

FROM A1

He said species diversity will begin to increase as soon as controlled burns are scheduled regularly. The fires will also contribute to the growth of wiregrass and wildflowers in areas that are now choked by palmettos.

Many students, like Heather Lafser, 21, have noticed the condition of the Arboretum continues to deteriorate each year and said now is the time to beautify the area.

"I used to go there almost every year during Halloween because they had the Haunted Arboretum, and every year the Arboretum looked worse and worse," the biology major said. "Now it is looking really bad when I saw it during a lab in my biodiversity class. There is no beauty or interesting life. They need to do something about it now."

Despite its ghastly appearance, the Arboretum is still used for campus activities.

At the start of the spring semester, students enrolled in Biological Diversity were taken there to analyze and record the diverse plant population. When students began counting and measuring plant species between two given points, they noticed that the plant population consisted of just one main

plant species and about four other sporadic species. Many groups recorded five species of plants in the Arboretum.

Quigley acknowledges that the Arboretum, once known for its beauty and diversity of abundant plant life, is in desperate need of work.

About 90 percent of the pines in the old collections area were toppled, broken or stripped of foliage. The surviving pines are now vigorously attacked by at least two species of bark beetles, he said. The falling debris crushed many of the smaller planted specimens, and others were deeply buried. Almost 12 acres of pines were wiped out between Gemini Boulevard and Apollo Circle just after Hurricane Charley tore a path through UCF.

Before the hurricane's arrival, 10 acres of the Arboretum had burned to the ground after a bolt of lightning ignited a brush fire on East Gemini and North Orion boulevards.

But all hope is not lost. Despite its neglect, the Arboretum does have a few bright spots.

"The boardwalk was largely spared, and most of the cycads, ferns, palms, bananas and xerophytes are alive," Quigley said. "It will be months before we know the extent of survival — but we will prevail."

Founded in 1983, the Arboretum has expanded from the original 12-acre garden to nearly 80 acres. North of the 9-acre man-made lake and the Engineering E-2 parking lot, trails take visitors through a 5 to 7-acre cypress dome and a 2 to 3-acre oak hammock. North of the oak hammock is a trail that crosses an open area with wild rosemary, sand pine and oak scrub.

An unmarked trail circles the cypress dome on the north, club mosses and carnivorous sundews lining the sides, before rejoining the main trail on the southwest side of the dome.

The Arboretum was formerly overseen by interim director John Miner and Hank Whittier, who retired two years ago.

Quigley and his wife, Elizabeth Harris, both well-known professors in the Biology Department, completed their doctoral work in botany at Louisiana State University and are familiar with the Gulf Coast vegetation and weather.

"We anticipate not only new research collaborations but a greater use of the Arboretum by faculty in other departments and colleges," Quigley said. "Helping the UCF Arboretum to achieve its fullest potential is the high point of my long and varied career."

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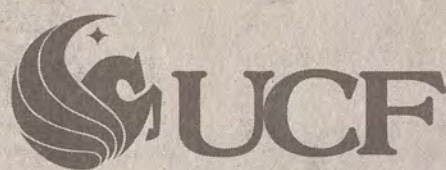
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The submission deadline is February 8, 2005.

Visit www.graduate.ucf.edu for details.





MOUTHING OFF

ASHLEY BURNS
Sports Editor

Sticking the world with a red-hot poker

It's one of the fastest-rising sports and it's here to stay

The other night I was in hour two of my all-too-frequent late-night poker tournaments, and my buddy Furby was dealt pocket sevens.

He bet generously, called a re-raise and eventually ended up all-in ... only to lose to a pair of kings on the river. Every time we've played in one of these post-Devaney's tournaments since that night, he brings it up.

That's not the reason why I love poker. I don't love watching my friends beat one another like drunken hillbillies. Who am I kidding? That's the main reason I love it. What better way to announce your superiority over your friends and enemies than by relieving yourself on the table?

And as I wrapped up yet another tournament at 7 a.m. yesterday, a discussion popped up at our table. As huge a phenomenon as poker has become over the past few years, will it ever hit a point where the fad dies?

At first I thought it has to. All fads come to an end. Poker isn't exactly like slap bracelets, as one of my regular opponents put it, but it's a fad nonetheless. Eventually something else has to come along that will steal the spotlight. Maybe it's Chinese Checkers or maybe Hungry Hungry Hippos. Either way poker can't last. Right?

Initially my stance was certain. After all, the only time I've ever been wrong was when I said Britney Spears had more staying power than Jessica Simpson and Christina Aguilera combined. But I still firmly believe Britney will launch a monster comeback tour and rekindle our romance. Or she'll end up in *Penthouse*.

Washed-up pop stars aside, I've examined every angle of this poker conundrum and I now believe there's a serious chance this puppy's here to stay.

In the 20 years of World Series of Poker competition between 1982 and 2002, the number of entrants increased more than 146 times the 52 who signed up in 1982. Adjusting for inflation that's a seemingly typical increase, but it's only been over the past three years that this thing has become a monumental sporting event. It's right up there with the Super Bowl and the NBA Finals. With hockey finally being in the dumpster (Hallelujah! Another column for another time), the WSOP could legitimately end up as the next huge event.

And why shouldn't it? There are 33 different tournaments that comprise the WSOP. For a poker aficionado (or rather addict) like myself, that's the Valhalla of card games. That's also

PLEASE SEE **THERE'S** ON A9

State & Nation

Huskie star guard will return jersey

SEATTLE — University of Washington basketball guard Nate Robinson will return a Chicago Bears jersey given to him by a former Huskies football player because accepting it may have been an NCAA violation.

Terry Johnson gave one of his Bears' jerseys to Robinson, a junior who is the leading scorer for the 13th-ranked Huskies, after the basketball team's Pac-10 victory Saturday at Arizona State. As a freshman, Robinson played on the Washington football team with Johnson.

"I'll definitely give it back," Robinson told reporters before Tuesday's practice. "It was just a slight misunderstanding with the NCAA and everything. I've known Terry for three years.

"He's been my friend," Robinson said. "We've been talking a whole bunch. Every since I was a freshman, he's been telling me he would give me a jersey once he made it to the NFL. He gave it to me as a friendship bond, but now I'm going to give it back."

The school advised Robinson to return the jersey, but officials said they weren't sure if it was a violation.

"It's kind of a gray area," Washington athletics spokesman Dan Lepse said. "We decided it's better to eliminate any appearance of impropriety and return the jersey. It's simpler to return it."

Robinson said he wanted to stay within the rules.

He said he will be allowed to accept the jersey

PLEASE SEE **REFEREES** ON A9

UCF 67, LIPSCOMB 58

BYE, BYE BISON

Johnson's late free throws deliver win

ANDY VASQUEZ
Staff Writer

Sometimes a single possession can change the direction a team is going.

That moment may have come for the UCF men on Monday night in the Knights' 67-58 victory over Lipscomb. Too bad there was hardly anyone there to see it.

With less than two minutes to play, the score was knotted at 58. UCF had surrendered a 13-point first-half lead but came back late in the second half to erase a 6-point deficit.

The Bison had the ball and the chance to hand UCF a damaging loss for the second time in less than a week. Then the Knights clamped down.

With 35 seconds of airtight UCF defense, Lipscomb hit a brick wall.

Shot clock violation. Lipscomb wouldn't score again.

The Knights came back and buried the Bison. After a frustrating game, Josh Peppers found some space at the top of the key and swished a 3-pointer, giving the Knights a 61-58 lead with just under a minute remaining.

UCF corralled Lipscomb on defense, and the Bisons fouled Gary Johnson, who made all six of his free throws in the final minute to give the Knights a 9-point victory as the thin crowd of 1,139 filed out.

Peppers scored only 6 points, but 3 of them came from that critical shot late in the game.

"I feel like I'm the man under pressure," Peppers said. "I had a bad game tonight, and I know that, but I stepped back up, and I knew the team needed me. So I came through with a clutch shot."

"I'm very proud of the way that they composed themselves and had poise coming down the stretch," UCF Coach Kirk Speraw said. "After we got down 6, from that point on [the team] executed and defended a lot better."

Defense was key, as it allowed the Knights to climb back in the game and take away the confidence that Lipscomb had built in the last two games against UCF.

"The defense was huge," Speraw said. "We became a lot more active, closed out better on the shooters, contained better and rebounded better. All facets of what we were doing were a lot better down the stretch."

After struggling early in the season, Anthony Williams continued his impressive play of late, scoring a game-high 18 points.

"I've been getting more comfortable with the offense," Williams said. "I came from a junior college where I hardly ever

PLEASE SEE **PEPPERS** ON A8



BRETT HART / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

Junior forward Anthony Williams led UCF men's basketball with a team-high 18 points in the Knights' win over Lipscomb Monday night.

O'Leary announces newest recruits

Football welcomes new class of incoming Knights

BRANDON HELWIG
UCFSports.com

Wednesday marked college football's National Signing Day, the first date when prospects can officially sign national letters of intent to the schools of their choice. UCF Coach George O'Leary announced the signings of 19 players, including several from the Orlando area.

The Golden Knights also added six junior college and prep school prospects at the beginning of the semester to make a total of 25 new additions to the program.

Highlighting the group of local prospects are Eustis cornerback Joe

Burnett, Daytona Beach-Seabreeze offensive lineman Richard Clark, West Orange linebacker Justin Warr and two prospects from Seminole County's Lake Brantley High School: linebacker Kyle Fowler and defensive back Lammar Guy. UCF linebackers coach Dave Huxtable is responsible for recruiting the Central Florida area.

Players often cited the coaching staff, the new athletic facilities, the housing on campus and UCF's academic offerings as key reasons for committing to the program.

"I just felt I was comfortable over there," said Warr, who was as three-year letter winner at West Orange. "Coach Huxtable is real cool. I like being around them and I like the way UCF runs things. It would be cool to stay close to home and I really like that."

Fowler, who is also a star basket-

ball player at Lake Brantley, echoed Warr's sentiment.

"It just feels like it's the spot to be," Fowler said. "Coach Huxtable — the linebackers coach — we have a strong bond. It just seems like that's the spot to be for me right now. They're an up-and-coming program. Coach O'Leary is of course one of the best coaches. It's close to home so my parents can come see me play."

UCF loaded up on linebackers in particular, signing a total of eight including the mid-year signees. In addition to local prospects Fowler and Warr, the Knights added Duluth (Ga.) Chattahoochee's Travis Barr, who was a one-time commitment to Illinois, Tallahassee-Lincoln's T.J. Harnden, UCF's first verbal commitment last summer, Naples' Cory Hogue and Vero Beach's Antonio Wallace. Jordan

Richards (Hargrave Academy) and Clarence Howard (Milford Prep) are already at UCF.

"I've seen Coach O'Leary at Georgia Tech and I know that he's a great coach," Hogue said. "His coaching staff is all with him and I know that UCF is really going to turn around and open up some eyes in the future. I think I just want to be a part of that."

There are no defensive line signees, but O'Leary didn't rule out the possibility of some players moving there in the future.

There are three offensive line signees, including Patrick Brown from St. Charles, Ill., Seabreeze's Clark and Ian Bustillo from Miami-Killian. Clark and Bustillo, both of whom were first team All-State selections, are center and guard

PLEASE SEE **LINEBACKERS** ON A9

OFF THE DRIBBLE » UCF: 67 • LIPSCOMB: 58

LEADERS: Scoring: Anthony Williams: 18 points
Rebounds: Avant, Williams: 6 each
Assists: Gary Johnson: 6

SUMMING UP THE GAME

Men send Bison out to the pasture

JEFF SHARON
Staff Writer

UCF won because . . .

It woke up down the stretch. The Knights fell down by as much as six in the second half but managed to fight back in the final 11 minutes. Down 47-41 at the 11:36 mark, UCF went on a 7-2 run to get back within one. Then, down six again, the Knights stormed back to tie the game at 54 with 4:02 left. After both teams traded points, UCF got the ball with 1:14 left and the game tied at 58. From there, the Knights would score the last 9 points of the game, and win going away. It was a game of runs in the second half, and fortunately for the Knights, they had the last one, outscoring Lipscomb 27-11 in the final 11:37.

Lipscomb lost because . . .

It couldn't put the nail in the coffin. Twice in the second half the Bison had the ball and a 6-point lead, and twice they failed to bury the dagger a little deeper. Despite out-rebounding the Knights 35-26, including 11-2 on the offensive glass, they shot just 40.4 percent from the field and committed 17 turnovers for the game. UCF converted their advantage in the turnover department into a 20-4 advantage in points, and just to cap it off, Lipscomb failed to score in the final 90 seconds when the game was still well within its reach.

Possession of the game

Lipscomb's blunder of an offensive possession in the final minute doomed it.

With the game knotted at 58, the Bison again had a chance to go up by a bucket heading into the final



Stat of the game: Scoring in the final 1:14 Lipscomb: 0 • UCF: 9

BRETT HART / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

Josh Peppers was held in check for most of Monday's win over Lipscomb, but he hit a late three to seal the game.

minute. But after confusion on offense and some clutch defense by UCF, Lipscomb failed to get a shot off before the shot clock buzzer, handing the ball and momentum back to the Knights with 1:14 left. Just 15 seconds later, Josh Peppers nailed a 3-pointer that put UCF up for good. Lipscomb would not score again.

Shot of the game

This award goes to Peppers' 3-pointer with 59.1 seconds left. After the shot clock violation got the crowd back on the edge of their seats, Pep obliged by canning a straightaway bomb, giving UCF a 61-58 lead in the final minute. It was Peppers' only 3-pointer for the game and just his second field goal overall, but it vaulted UCF into the lead for the final time. Peppers scored just 6 points the whole game. After the three, Lipscomb failed to score on their ensuing possession, and Gary Johnson then made three pilgrimages to the free-throw line in the final 40 seconds, hitting all six of his shots. Peppers' three has to rank as one of the biggest shots of the year so far for Kirk Speraw and company.

Off the bench

Marcus Johnson

Johnson hit three of his five shots, scoring 8 huge points off the bench. With Will Bakanowsky back in the lineup after recovering from a concussion, Johnson saw his stint in the starting five come to an end. Not complaining one bit, he stepped right in for 17 minutes and scored some huge buckets on the interior. In addition, he hit both of his free-throws — a big accomplishment for a team that has had issues at the line all year long.

INSIDE THE GAME NUMBERS

10

Turnovers committed by UCF against Lipscomb Monday night

17

Turnovers committed by Lipscomb against UCF Monday night

UCF
PLAYER OF THE GAME

ANTHONY WILLIAMS

Williams led all scorers with 18 points on 8/13 from the field, hauling down six boards and dishing three assists in the process. Down the stretch, he hit a pair of huge layups to keep the Knights close with the Bison and played solid defense for his 32 minutes, as well

STETSON
PLAYER OF THE GAME

JAMES POINDEXTER

Poindexter had a keen sense of timing the other night, scoring a dozen points and snagging three rebounds off the bench. Although he only hit 5/12 from the field, the five he did hit were huge and included two 3-pointers.

Peppers' clutch 3-pointer puts nail in Bison coffin

FROM A7

touched the ball. I think I only got 12 shots in a game, once or twice there. I get shots here."

Williams was key in the victory because he established an inside presence, something the Knights have been lacking all season.

"I thought we did a nice job of getting him looks down there," Speraw said. "And he did a nice job of finishing."

Even though they won, there were still spells in the game when the Knights had a hard time scoring.

Late in the first half the Knights built up a 13-point lead, but then seemed to let their guard down. The Bison took advantage, going on a 7-0 run to trail 34-28 at the break.

The halftime break didn't help the Knights, as Lipscomb continued the run in the second half. Lipscomb's 26-7 run spanned two halves and nearly 10 minutes, giving the Bison a 47-41 lead midway through the second half.

"We go through these spells where we just kind of get a foggy look on our face for some reason," Speraw said. "We've got to snap out of those spells and stay more locked in mentally throughout the entire ballgame."

Nine teams are within two-and-a-half games of first place in the bunched-up A-Sun

standings, and the importance of every game at this late stage in the season can't be understated.

Only a week ago, the Knights had lost three consecutive games and were tied for ninth in the standings.

Now, after winning their last two games, the Knights find themselves in a two-way tie for sixth but only a game and a half behind conference leader Gardner-Webb.

"We knew we couldn't lose," Williams said. "Our back is against the wall right now."

The Knights now enter the toughest part of their schedule. A three-game road trip starts tomorrow night in Alabama against Troy State. The Knights then travel up I-4 to take on Stetson a week from tonight, and a week from Saturday Jacksonville will host UCF.

The Knights do not return to the Dungeon until Feb. 17 when they will host Mercer.

Despite the tough road that lies ahead of the Knights, Speraw remains optimistic.

"I don't think that we've played our best basketball yet," he said. "I anticipate that will still be ahead of us somewhere down the road."

Game notes

Gary Johnson finished with 17 points, six assists and two blocks, and shot a perfect



BRETT HART / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

Senior guard Kingsley Edwards, above, turned in three steals in the Knights' nine-point win. Anthony Williams, right, is averaging 14 points per game through the last three games.

eight-for-eight from the free-throw line. Marcus Johnson was an inside presence scoring, 8 points on three-for-five shooting. William Bakanowsky continued his comeback from a concussion and scored 8

points in 31 minutes. UCF was out-rebounded 35-26. The Knights forced 17 turnovers while only turning it over themselves 10 times. There is no timetable for the return of injured guard Justin Rose.



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Athletic Director Steve Orsini, left, greets UCF President John Hitt, right, prior to yesterday's football press conference as Coach George O'Leary prepares to announce this year's new recruiting class.

Linebackers rule among this year's class

FROM A7

prospects. "The facilities are as good or better than anywhere else," Clark said. "They're beautiful. You can't beat the coaching staff there. It's an up and coming program."

Brown, who chose UCF over TCU, will play offensive tackle.

"I was very impressed with the new dorms," Brown said. "They're pretty much like condos and I was very impressed with that because I've never seen that at any college. Their facilities are one year old and I think they rival any weight room or any training room in the country. I think UCF is kind of like a hidden gem down in Florida that's going to be the next big program so I was really

impressed."

There are two quarterbacks coming in as well: Alex Thompson of Gainesville-Buchholz and Marquel Neasman from Bradenton-Southeast. Thompson is a three-time All-State selection. Neasman is more of an athletic quarterback who has been compared to former Georgia Tech standout and current Orlando Predators quarterback Joe Hamilton.

UCF also added talent in the offensive backfield to help offset the loss of Alex Haynes. Jason Peters, a tailback from Butte College in California, is already enrolled in school and will be available for spring practice. The Knights also signed two high school tailbacks: Miami

Southridge's Kevin Smith and Jayson Williams of Salem High School in Conyers, Ga. Also added to the mix will be fullback Shane Smith from Milford Prep in New York.

Two wide receivers were added to the fold, including Rocky Ross, an All-State selection from state champion Bolles in Jacksonville, and Javid James of West Hills Community College in California. James is already on campus.

"The thing that caught my attention at UCF is they always talked about life after football," Ross said. "How they're going to be your coach for four or five years and it may look like they're coaching you for football, but they're really coaching you in life

and what's going to help you in life after football."

Tallahassee-Lincoln's Travis Ferrer and Tuscaloosa (Ala.) Northridge's J.R. Sandlin are the two tight end signees.

"The school is huge," Sandlin said. "It's really nice. It's one of the nicest campuses I've ever seen. The campus was just gorgeous. The dorms they have are like condos. I thought I was at the beach or something. Then we saw the players' rooms and I was like man alive this is nice. They're building a new indoor facility and they said it will be the only Division I indoor facility in Florida. Florida, Florida State, South Florida and Miami don't even have one. It was Orlando so I was like hey it's bigger than Tuscaloosa."

There's always hope if there's a chip and a chair

FROM A7

roughly eight decades of hour-long poker shows to fill ESPN's late-night crackhead slots if properly edited. By properly edited I, of course, mean I want to see every breath. I want to see every flop from 709 different angles. I want to see the river card turned over and then have translators of 37 different languages tell me how to say, "That F-ing river!" I want to watch the anguish and suffering on the faces of Mike Matusow and Phil Hellmuth every time they make a horrible call and put their lives on tilt.

The only thing that bothers me

is that by now I'm positive at least 40 percent of the people reading this have no clue what the hell I was talking about in that last paragraph.

That's too bad. This game is pure excitement. It's like a big basket of free porn. I don't think I can put it much better.

Poker is a game that everyone can relate to. I don't believe in gambling because it's an awful habit, and my friends and I play strictly for pretzels, but for the hardcore gambler it's heroin. For math lovers it's a game of numbers. For a guy like me who needs victory in simple games to boost his self-esteem and maintain superior-

ity over his lowly peon companions, it's the best thing since meal-plan pizza.

That's why ESPN is brilliant for riding this wave of oddly colored clay chips. Bravo has *Celebrity Poker Showdown*. The Travel Channel has *World Poker Tour*. Oxygen has *Independent-Successful-Single-Female-That-Doesn't-Need-A-Man-Holding-Her-Back Poker Tour*. Univision has something that looks like poker but everyone keeps dancing.

Poker is far and away the fastest growing universally recognized sport. And it is a sport. Anything that involves sitting next to or near a fat, sweaty man who lacks the

ambition to wear deodorant is a sport in my book. These Texas hold 'em tyrants put days into these tournaments with very little sleep and the concentration of a Viet Cong sniper. That, my friends, is the definition of an athlete.

It's a beautiful game and it's not going anywhere but up. Anyone who doesn't like it has their brain on tilt.

Take my advice and pick up a deck of cards and grab a seat at a table the next time you get a chance.

I guarantee you'll be all in.

Ashley Burns can be reached at sports@UCFnews.com

Referees punished for botched replay

FROM A7

from Johnson after he leaves school. He considered leaving the Huskies after his sophomore season to enter the NBA draft but decided to stay at Washington for at least this season. He hasn't said if he plans to return next year.

Coach Lorenzo Romar said Tuesday that athletic director Todd Turner had reviewed the gift.

"Rules are in place for a reason," Romar said.

Sugar Bowl working on new deal with BCS

NEW ORLEANS — The Sugar Bowl, along with the Orange and Fiesta Bowls began negotiating new contracts with the BCS on Wednesday.

Sugar Bowl executive director Paul Hoolahan is sure the new agreement will be worked out. He's also sure it will be costly.

"It's safe to say that, unquestionably, they will be expecting a higher payout from us and quite possibly, a significantly higher payout," said Hoolahan, who declined to say how much the Sugar Bowl paid the BCS this past season.

Starting in 2006 the BCS will add a fifth bowl to the Sugar, Orange, Fiesta and Rose bowls. Each of the bowls will host a game, then one of the five will host the championship game approximately a week later.

New Orleans is scheduled to host the championship game after the 2007 season.

Also, starting in 2006, Fox will take over televising all of the BCS bowls except the Rose Bowl. ABC retains rights to the Rose Bowl and the title game when it is played in Pasadena, Calif.

Three officials suspended for video review

SAN FRANCISCO — San Francisco coach Jessie Evans got little solace Monday from the decision by the West Coast Conference to suspend three officials for improperly using video replay to disallow a 3-pointer by the Dons in a key loss to Saint Mary's.

The WCC suspended Thomas Wood, Tom



Washington's Nate Robinson, left, may have committed an NCAA violation by accepting an NFL jersey from a former Huskie athlete.

Spitznagel and Chad Johnson for one game apiece for their mistake in San Francisco's 68-64 loss Sunday that cost the Dons a share of first place in the conference.

"There's no vindication, still a little frustration," Evans said. "It impacts the game, what can you say. That's not the first time the referees have missed a call. You just hope it doesn't happen to you."

San Francisco's Dommanic Ingerson made a 3-pointer midway through the first half, and the officials initially counted it. But four minutes later, the officials disallowed the basket after conducting a video review that showed Ingerson's shot came after the shot clock expired.

Jack Ditty, the conference's coordinator of men's basketball officiating, said officials are allowed to use video review only on shots at the halftime buzzer or the end of a game.

INSIDE THE NUMBERS

24

Preseason national ranking of the UCF baseball team

2

Remaining home conference games for men's basketball

1.5

Games by which 1st-place Gardner-Webb leads UCF men's hoops in the A-Sun

19

High school recruits committed to play football at UCF in 2005

Who's hot

Anthony Williams who continued his solid play by scoring 18 in Monday night's victory over Lipscomb.

Who's not

Kingsley Edwards, who scored only 4 points and shot one for four in Monday's 67-58 victory over Lipscomb.

Upcoming

Men's basketball travels to Troy, Ala., to take on Troy State tomorrow night ... Baseball hosts FIU at 1 p.m. Saturday and Sunday ... Softball rides to Clearwater to take on Tennessee and Texas A&M tomorrow afternoon, then takes on Depaul and Gardner-Webb Saturday night ... Women's basketball hosts Stetson at 2 p.m. Saturday ... Men's soccer faces the MLS's Columbus Crew in a exhibition match on today in Bradenton ... Men's golf heads to Gainesville Saturday for the Gator Invitational.

Quotables

"I don't think we've played our best basketball yet."
— UCF COACH KIRK SPERAW ON MEN'S HOOPS

"I feel like I'm the man under pressure."
— JOSH PEPPERS ON HIS GO-AHEAD 3-POINTER IN UCF'S WIN OVER LIPSCOMB

Next issue

Check out Monday's issue for the 2005 baseball and softball previews.

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OUR STANCE

Throw up a block to tuition plan

With a whirl of inactivity happening at almost every meeting, the SGA Senate can't get outsiders to come to meetings — even with the allure of free food.

The current political climate of students not knowing — or caring — about what's going on every Thursday evening is about to change.

A group of Student Government Association senators are prepared to fight for students by taking on one of the most offensive academic plans to ever come to the Florida Legislature.

Block tuition is a plan that is based upon Gov. Jeb Bush's push to get all college students through the state universities in four years or less. The plan calls for all full-time students taking 12 credit hours or more to pay a flat tuition rate equal to 15 credit hours each semester.

The idea is that those students who pay for 15 credit hours will want to take all 15 of those hours — or maybe even more! That would make sure students would earn 30 credit hours a year for four years, totaling 120 hours, or enough to graduate.

As UCF President John Hitt recognizes, the proposal doesn't make much sense — the state pays for each student by the

head, so the number of years they take to graduate is irrelevant.

The bigger problem with this plan is that it is detrimental to those students who are working their way through college.

The ones who can't afford to just sit back and enjoy the classroom environment are not only going to break their backs working, but bust their butts doing all the classwork required to keep up in five classes.

The students who want to keep their sanity are the ones who are going to do exactly the opposite: They're going to drop classes. UCF, and every other state university, is likely to become a part-time school, where most of the students are taking nine credits or fewer every semester.

Bush's plan will result in an ironic turn of events, with more students taking five or more years to get that diploma.

But now student leaders are showing off their leadership abilities: They're taking a stand against the block tuition. Currently, SGA senators are starting a statewide coalition of college students who intend to rally in Tallahassee against the increase [see Reader Views, "Thanks, and a call to action," at right].

Students who think this is a

better idea than the Senate's vote to feed its members on meeting nights [see "Senate foots bill for food, slashes budget for activists," Jan. 27] should contact the Senate's Governmental Affairs Committee and encourage the lobbying effort.

If students continue to be lax with their elected representatives, this sort of effort will not be repeated. Lobbying against an unfair cause supported by a money-hungry government is more difficult than sitting around eating dinner in Student Union Room 316.

If the senators and other leaders don't get a positive response, they may never stand up for the students at UCF again.

Take an interest in what's going on. Don't let some men and women in Tallahassee who all graduated more than 20 years ago dictate how you divide your work and school time.

The only time when those old people in the capital actually know how their actions affect people is when you tell them.

Unless you want to choose between paying for books or studying them, this proposal concerns you. And that's enough reason to support the Governmental Affairs Committee in its advocacy of student rights.

OUR STANCE

Don't let TV teach your kids

The No Child Left Behind Act remains the main focus of new Education Secretary Margaret Spellings — or so she says. Reading the headlines over the past month, you would think that the Department of Education was on a publicity tour.

In January, Armstrong Williams, a political pundit, was paid \$240,000 to endorse the "No Child Left Behind" program. The payoff of Williams became news because he compromised his journalistic integrity and reversed his opinion of the educational program, which he had previously bashed.

Then, more recently, Spellings threatened to reduce funding for the Public Broadcasting Service over the airing of a children's cartoon show. The show in question, Postcards from Buster, is a weekly cartoon program about diversity. The series features an 8-year-old rabbit who travels around the country with his father, a pilot. In each episode, Buster visits children to learn about their way of life. Real children are taped while Buster's voice asks questions.

The episode that drew heat from Spellings focused on Buster visiting a family in Vermont, where civil unions are legal, that has two mothers. There is no sexual contact between the two characters and homosexuality is never mentioned in the show.

Spellings denounced the cartoon, stating that "many parents would not want their young children exposed to the lifestyles portrayed in the episode."

Any parent who does not want their child exposed to these issues should take the initiative in educating them instead of letting the television do the work. Same-sex parenting is an issue that these new generations will have to deal with because of the several states that allow it.

At least 24 stations will air the episode despite the condemning by Spellings. While that may seem like a lot, it is only a small number of the 349 PBS affiliates in the United States.

In Denver at KBDI, the station plans to broadcast the episode in prime time next Thursday, followed by a 90-minute on-air discussion with teachers, religious leaders, behavioral scientists and members of the gay and lesbian community. "This has become a national issue," Wick Rowland, president at KBDI, told the Boston Globe. "I think it's important for public television to air it so we can foster understanding about diversity."

It is nice that KBDI is going to educate the masses, but the station is missing a golden opportunity to reach the children. By moving the show to prime time, the station will lose a lot of its younger viewers.

Spellings' reprimand recalls other incidents of leaders taking issue with the allegedly gay content of cartoons. A few years back Tinky Winky from the television show Teletubbies was called out by Christian activist Jerry Falwell for carrying a purse and exhibiting what Falwell claimed were

gay tendencies.

Just a few weeks ago, Spongebob Squarepants was labeled Spongebob Queerpants by ultra-conservative James Dobson, the leader of Focus on the Family, at a black-tie formal dinner. Celebrants sat in shock as Dobson explained how Spongebob was pushing a pro-gay agenda from his under-the-sea pineapple headquarters. He also called out Winnie-the-Pooh and Barney the Dinosaur, who appear with Spongebob in a music video to the disco hit "We Are Family" that will be distributed to schools nationwide.

Why is there such a commotion over the activities of cartoon characters today? It seems homophobia is in overdrive and every character must exhibit heterosexuality and absolutely no ambiguity. It is pathetic to think that people sit around and analyze cartoons to look for stereotypes that might be turning their kids gay.

Adults overestimate the impact cartoons have on children. Kids watch cartoons to laugh, and if it is an educational cartoon, they might learn something in the process. Keeping children from learning about diversity, as wrong as that decision may be, is the choice of the parent. But preventing other children from learning about it is wrong on all sides. Turn off the television, sit your kids down and explain to them what you deem morally right and wrong. It will be way more effective than cartoons.

IRAQIS GIVE THE TERRORISTS THE FINGER...



READER VIEWS

Thanks, and a call to action

Thank you for printing a correction regarding my statement about how much money political action groups have received from student government ["Senate foots for food, slashes budget for activists," Jan. 31].

When a body allocates money at the rate that we student senators do, the spending of any absurdly hefty figure sounds very possible.

Leaders have fought to protect the Bright Futures scholarships and Florida Pre-Paid Tuition that most of our careers greatly depend on. Since the simmering of these debates a new threat has been posed to higher education — block tuition. Discussion on this issue has been hot from here, to Tallahassee, to Washington D.C.

For those of you who don't know, block tuition will have you paying for 15 credit hours, even if you are only taking 12, or nine. If the Florida Legislature accepts this plan, active students who exceed the required amount of credit hours for graduation will be forced to pay "out of state tuition."

Block tuition recommends that a student who cannot take 15 credit hours because they have to work to afford the tuition should be forced to take that extra class or pay the consequence. It is hurting the ones who are already sacrificing.

As chairman, I can soundly say that the Governmental Affairs Committee in the SGA Senate is committed to lobbying for the students who see this harsh proposal as detrimental to our university's academic health.

We students realize the tactics of certain state politicians. We are organizing to keep student interests in the forefront and keep quality higher education affordable — not to see it taken away.

As of now, we are seeking the support of UCF's administration and look forward to working with them. Prepare to see our resources used to advance our cause.

To join our cause, e-mail me at sga_gac@mail.ucf.edu.

— MATT DEVLIEGER

CHAIRMAN, GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Not just music

I just glanced through Monica Panakos' story ["Music's outdated facilities hit a low note: Rehearsal Hall," Jan. 27] concerning the outdated facilities in the Music Department, and I agree completely. Her article reminded me how the theater seems outdated every time I attend a theater production here at UCF.

As a theater student, I attended Kent State University in Ohio starting in 1964. Then, the E. Turner Stump Theatre Complex was 50 times more advanced than the plant at UCF.

Although UCF has a very good and ambitious theater program, the facilities offered to the students are indeed pathetic. Our students are quite talented and have a great faculty, but they really deserve much better facilities in which to learn. However, as long as football is the cash-cow for the university, I am sure this is not likely to happen.

— SKIP WEST
PHYSICAL PLANT

Stupid people

I hate stupid people ["Residents miss housing deadline," Jan. 27]! People who don't listen, don't pay attention and then try to blame their mistakes on other people.

Is UCF perfect? No. Do I agree with everything the school does? No. So let's not waste time yelling at them about things they do right.

Every single resident received two notices in their mailbox telling them to pay \$100 by Jan. 15 if they wanted to live on campus next year. Flyers were plastered all over the walls, and everyone was talking about it in the dorms. You're in college; grow up and stop whining.

— CASEY NESSELHAUF

Painting a picture

Your article about Sigma Phi Epsilon and Pi Kappa Alpha ["Two fraternities still homeless," Jan. 27] was relatively accurate, but it painted a much prettier picture of the situa-

PLEASE SEE **READER VIEWS** ON A11

The *Future* encourages comments from readers. Letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words and must include full name and phone number. We may edit for length, grammar, style and libel. Send letters to editor@UCFnews.com, submit them online at www.UCFnews.com or fax them to 407-447-4556. Questions? Call 407-447-4555.

MAN ON THE STREET

THE WORD AROUND CAMPUS

'What bothers you most about UCF construction?'



ALLISHA FARRELL
Undeclared

"I hate having to walk around it, and sometimes it makes me late for my classes."



BAILEY FALLEN
Nursing

"The dirt parking lots need to be paved, because I'm tired of washing my car every day."



MATTHEW MCGOVERN
Management information systems

"I had to get a new tire because I ran over some screws and nails in the parking lot."



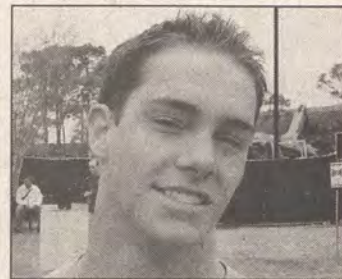
MARISA SPYKER
Undeclared

"The noise is bothersome to my study efforts."



STENCE GEORGE
Marketing

"I just tolerate it, because the ends will justify the means."



JEFF ROMAN
Marketing

"With all the trucks and equipment it makes parking a lot more hectic."

Central Florida Future

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READER VIEWS

From ATO

tion.
I am a brother of Sigma Phi Epsilon, and from first-hand experience of having to be forced out of the house, I can say with certainty that there was absolutely no assistance from UCF or Sigma Phi Epsilon nationals when it came to finding housing for displaced students.
We were literally left out on the streets on our own with no help from anyone. It was suggested we move into Arden Villas, but a suggestion was all it was. There was no communica-

tion between UCF and Arden Villas, and no one anywhere knew what was going on.
As I write this letter, I still have friends living out of their cars, and it is now the third week of the spring semester.
I myself was forced to move into a house with random roommates because living situations were not available at reasonable prices, there were no short-term leases and there were not enough available rooms for multiple people.
On top of the situation at hand, my family just received a letter a couple of days ago in the mail from Sigma Phi

Epsilon saying that housing was provided to everyone displaced.
The funny thing is that as my mother read me the letter over the phone, I was completely homeless with no fraternity house and no hotel to stay at.
So how anyone came to the conclusion that UCF or Sigma Phi Epsilon provided housing is beyond me. The whole situation was poorly handled by all parties involved and, once again, UCF did nothing to help any of its students, unlike the article stated.
—STEVEN KAY

Welcome to UCF ... home of the rich and insanely gullible

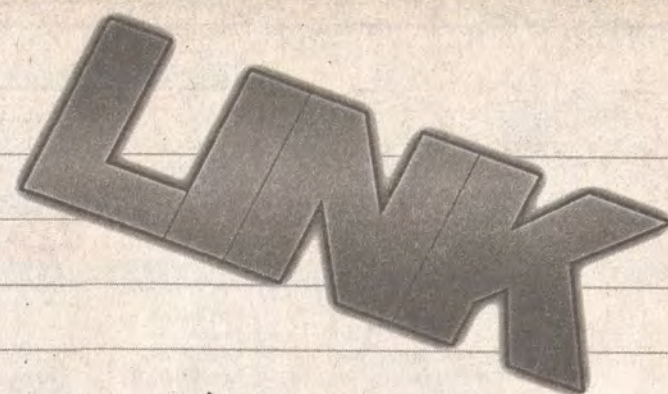


COMMENTARY
NATHAN POEKERT
Staff writer

I understand there are many great advantages to living on campus. You can walk to class. You don't have to worry about parking. You're just a skateboard ride away from any on-campus event.
There are even many advantages to living in the new Convocation Center Apartments set to open this fall. You are right next to the Arena and also close to the biggest and busiest class buildings (Engineering, Business 1 and 2, and Classroom Building 1).
However, is it worth \$9,000 for an 11-month lease? Roughly figured, this is about \$785 per month. Add to that your tuition, books and a meal plan at the Marketplace, and you are

looking at about \$15,000 a year. When did UCF suddenly become a private school?
I will be shocked if the one bedroom/one bathroom apartments at the new complex get completely filled anytime soon. Unless, of course, an insane number of rich kids suddenly decide to enroll.
Good job, UCF. Let's add "the highest cost of living" to our already growing list of "most expensive in Florida" categories. We already have the highest athletic fees, highest activity fees, and, of course, highest tuition. Why not make it even more expensive for us?
Off-campus housing isn't any better. My junior year, I lived in Jefferson Commons (I will never refer to it as Pegasus Connection), and I paid \$485 as one of four people sharing a four bedroom/four bathroom apartment. Now, the cost has risen to \$515 for the same apartment.
I reckon (yes, I said reckon) that UCF is looking at the recent expenses it has undergone and decided that it needs to make a profit somehow.
The new football stadium is definitely a necessity because

our football program really deserves to be rewarded for its most recent 0-11 season. As a marketing major, let me just say that nobody will give a crap about our program unless we win games and go to a bowl game. Let's talk about building a stadium *then*, please.
Don't get me started on that stupid "resort-style" pool next to the gym. I give it four months before UCF makes national headlines for the number of freshmen who drowned in it because they were drunk.
Of course the pool is justified because of the new apartments. You can't have a resort-style apartment complex without a resort-style pool, can you?
We are not little kids, President Hitt. You can't flash pretty things in our faces like a stadium and a pool and expensive one-bedroom apartments and still think we're going to sit back and happily accept higher tuition.
I support further tuition hikes for one reason, and one reason alone: if the money goes toward more classes, more classrooms and more parking spots.



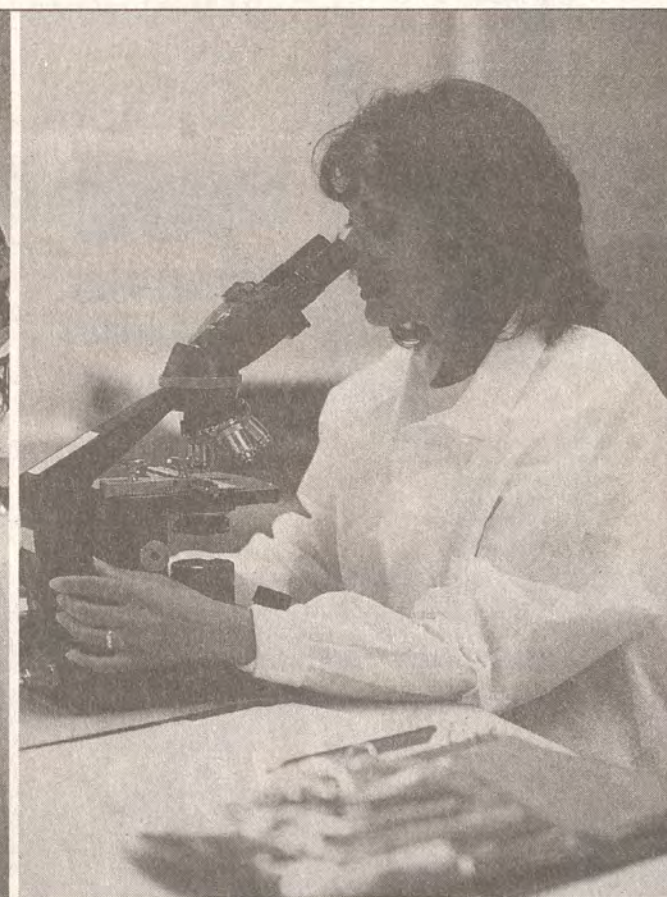
To Do List:

☐ An Evening with Spike Lee:
America through my Lens
02.08.05 7:00PM SU Pegasus Ballroom
(Get LINK Loot!!)

☐ Power Studying
02.15.05 3:00PM SU 218
(Get LINK Loot!!)

☐ PSG for Spring Break
02.17.05 6:00PM
Village at Alafaya Club
(Get LINK Loot!!)

☐ Long Distance Relationships
02.28.05 7:00PM SU 218
(Get LINK Loot!!)



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CLASSIFICATIONS

100 Help Wanted: General	375 For Sale: Pets
125 Help Wanted: Part-Time	400 Services
150 Help Wanted: Full-Time	500 Events
175 Business Opportunities	525 Events: Greek Life
200 For Rent: Homes	550 Events: UCF
225 For Rent: Apartments	600 Travel
250 Roommates	700 Worship
275 Sublease	800 Miscellaneous
300 For Sale: General	900 Wanted
325 For Sale: Automotive	999 Lost & Found
350 For Sale: Homes	

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3361 Rouse Road #200
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By Fax: (407) 447-4556

By E-mail: classifieds@UCFnews.com

In Person: University Court, Suite 200
Univ. Blvd. & Rouse behind Chick-Fil-A

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

5 p.m. Fri. for Mon. issue
5 p.m. Tues. for Thurs. issue

PAYMENT METHODS

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AD RATES

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UCF's award-winning newspaper,
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- Classified line ads are published in both the *Future* and the *Chronicle*
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Good for students.
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Receptionist Needed
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Teachers, Assistants & Bus Driver
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We are located west of the airport
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Wireless's UCF Area Call Center. Must
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Call Center or Customer Service
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*\$10.00/hour
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*Full-Time Schedules
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*Bring Updated Resume
*Bring Two Forms of ID

Call or attend our Job Fair
Friday, February 4th
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UCF Garden Hilton
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(407) 648-9408

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An EOE/Never An Applicant Fee
Juniors and Seniors Earn between
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hours assisting fellow students, no sales.
Call Al (ext. 115) or Bobbi (ext. 122) for
phone interview between 2-9pm
800-449-8680.

100 HELP WANTED:
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Attractive, thin females who smoke daily
or weekly needed for confidential phone
interview. Selected callers earn \$40.
Leave name and number, your call will
be returned ASAP. 661-255-3940.

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Qualifications: Motivated, self-starter with
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Independent consultants have unlimited
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Immediate openings available.
407-971-9131.

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New University Keller's BBQ, FT & PT,
Call 10-4 pm, Mon.-Fri.,
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History major for 10th grade AP student.
Please respond by
calling 407-947-2420

Callers Needed! CMG Telemarketing!
Info verifying for mortgage products.
Work at home or from our call center.
\$7/hr min! email: alex@cmgleads.com
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Weekday afternoons, to assist with
homework and after-school activities for
elementary school kids. Elementary
Education major a plus. We are looking
for someone energetic and enthusiastic
to make this time easier and more fun for
everyone. Pay plus tolls. Please call
Jennifer or David at 407-324-7793 to set
up an appointment for an interview.

100 HELP WANTED:
General

CAMP COUNSELORS WANTED!



Have a fantastic summer and get paid for it
at Circle F Dude Ranch! We are seeking
counselors for a traditional residential
summer camp in Lake Wales, FL. Activities
include horseback riding, waterfront, sports,
rock wall/zipline, paintball, and more.
Staff arrives Tuesday, May 31 and
leaves Wednesday, August 3.

Call
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necessary. Energetic people with
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Prior experience in gymnastics required.
Must be Energetic & Creative.
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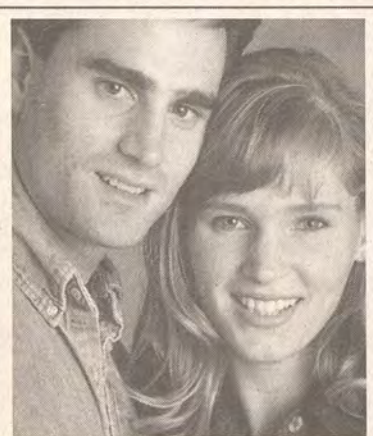
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SEE WHAT'S INSIDE

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Apartments



the Central Florida Future
Housing Guide
At stands Monday Feb. 7th

125 HELP WANTED: Part-Time

Female in wheel chair needs assistance with daily living activities, driving van, and some lifting. Nights and weekends, downtown. Call 407-835-8190.

P/T Doggy Daycare Position. Must Love Dogs.

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Call 407-628-3844.

Energetic and outgoing female clerk needed for smoke shop on University and 436. Flex. hours. Call High Society at 407-679-8365 for more info.

Looking for Programmer With skills in Visual Basic, html, asp.net, or .net. Flexible hours, Mon-Fri. 407-339-2626 ext. 226, ask for Dave.

Test Engineer
Execute test procedures to confirm the satisfaction of system, software and/or hardware requirements; document test results; and generate concise detailed problem reports. Software testing experience preferred. Flexible hour schedule (20 hrs/week). Convenient location near UCF. Fax resume to: 407-281-7011.

Traffic Counts
\$9/hr. 12 p.m. - 7 p.m.,
Tues-Thur from
Feb 8th through 17th.
407-230-2219

Mother's helper needed to pick up children from school 3 times/week until parents arrive. Early Education major preferred. Call 407-448-3047 or RUCBalvarez@aol.com

150 HELP WANTED: Full-Time

Recruiting Special Education Teachers Interview with Colorado Springs School District 11. Feb. 10th & 11th, 4pm-6pm. University of Central Florida, Education Building Complex Rm 305. Contact Ed Paulovich at 719-520-2173, 719-649-6133 or Pauloe@d11.org to schedule an interview. Drop-ins welcome.

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\$315/mo. Avail. Now! Room in house for rent. Screened pool, high speed Internet, cable, W/D, garage & full kitchen. Clean, drug free, NS. Mins to UCF & Valencia. Call 321-243-7170 or email dltlet@aol.com.

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Legacy Real Estate Group Inc.

Awesome Brand New Home
Great rooms avail Jan, near UCF, pool, tennis courts, lake. \$500/mo, yearly lease. Call Sherry/Todd @ 954-753-3032 or 407-482-4969

UCF AREA HOME
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HOMES FOR RENT
UCF area 2, 3 & 4 bedroom homes and apts. for rent. \$649 to \$1295. Call 407-629-6330 or www.OracleRent.com to view our rentals. RE/MAX 200 Realty.

UCF Apartment
Very Large 3BD/2BA. 1 min from UCF. New floors. \$750/mo some utls incl Call Bryan @ 407-595-6752 or email bmyx2002@yahoo.com

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1 & 2 bedroom
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Apartments
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**225 FOR RENT: Apartments**

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Less than 10 mins. away from UCF \$250/mo. plus util. 1 small rm avail. for F to share with females in 4/2 home. Clean, quiet, W/D, furnished. N/S, no pets please. Call 407-319-3751

1 room avail for female in spacious 4/2.5 house. All included + internet & cable. Only 5 miles from UCF. Contact Maritza 954-290-3564 -or- email ucfnews4me@yahoo.com

Female roommate wanted to share 4/3 close to UCF. N/S. No pets. \$500/mo. Utilities, Internet, & cable included. Call Angie 407-366-4035 or 954-494-8659.

ROOM FOR RENT-MALE
3/2 home, 10 mins from campus. Tiled floors in great rm, fenced yard, cable/roadrunner, 2 car garage, w/d. \$425/mo + 1/4 util. 407-222-2895

Rooms for rent, 5 min. from UCF in new 4 bedroom house, new neigh.
Lg. rooms, back yard faces preserve. House furn., bedrooms not. Sec. sys., high-speed wireless Internet. Room w/other students. \$500/mo. all util. incl. 954-816-3127

Roommate Needed! Beautiful 3/2/2 house with pool, fireplace, W/D, fenced. yd, 5 min from UCF. Pets ok. \$450/mo includes cable/internet + 1/4 power. Call Brad @ 407-808-8039 / 407-509-8632

Roommate Needed for Oviedo Home Clean 4/2, \$300/mo plus util. Current tenants are three males. Call after 5 pm, 407-375-4198

FEMALE ROOMMATE WANTED
\$400/mo plus util. Jan '05-July '05. 5 mins from UCF. Polos East Apartments. Call Ann Marie 954-854-0553.

FEMALE ROOMMATE NEEDED
For immediate occupancy in spacious 4/2 home in Waterford Lakes. \$475/mo incl all util & high-speed internet. Won't last long! 407-282-7774 or 863-398-6398

Large Spacious Home
2 mins from UCF, prvt bdrm, \$525/mo all utls incl. Call Katie @ 941-720-1886

Room avail. for Male in 3/2 home near UCF. Clean, quiet and responsible senior or graduate preferred. House incl. furnished room, screened-in patio with in-ground jacuzzi, home theater system, lawn care, cable and wireless internet. \$500/mo. all util. incl. March move-in. Call 407-709-5098.

UCF AREA-Female to share furnished 3/2 house with female \$600/mo util. incl. Also incl. cable, pool, office. Serious student or professional only. Call ASAP 321-277-3851.

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407-592-5762

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Crossword

ACROSS
1 Splinter group
5 Brogan binders
10 Cultivate
14 Reverberation
15 Hersey's bell town
16 In ___ of
17 Conveys
19 Rustic hotels
20 Sudden rush
21 Drive a dinghy
22 Rose and
23 Rozelle
24 Careless
26 Slure over
26 Exist
28 Sports venues
29 Nincompoop
32 Landlord
35 Limit
37 Thorn apples
39 Oscar-winner
Norma
40 Worthy of
penance
42 Wessel with a black-tipped tail
43 Diego
44 British insurance syndicate
46 Recent
47 Brainy
48 Excess weight
50 Hatfield's enemy
53 Chicken king
54 Be flexible
57 Promissory notes
58 Florida swamp
60 Fruit pastry
61 Comic actress
Zasu
62 Ale's cousin
63 Alimony recipients
64 Out of style
65 "SportsCenter" stn.



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02/03/05

6 Worshipper
7 Seasonal serenader
8 Twists together
9 Help!
10 Takes to the air
11 "___ Too Proud to Beg"
12 Philosopher Descartes
13 Rumble
18 Gender
22 Nag
25 Breaks violently
26 Robert and Alan
27 Spanish cowboy's lariat
28 Fit for farming
29 Ventilation ports
30 Act division
31 Scatter about
33 Baltimore paper
34 Verbally
36 Arles image
38 Bratislava's country
41 Holes for laces

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47 Expenses
48 Team follower
49 Homemade
50 Speck
51 Wheedle
52 Make well
55 Call from the hatchery
56 Gull relative
59 Antithesis: abbr.
59 Map dir.

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IN THE VIP



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(UNDER 21 - \$5) 18+ WELCOME

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TABS MUST BE USED BY 1AM

get wet!

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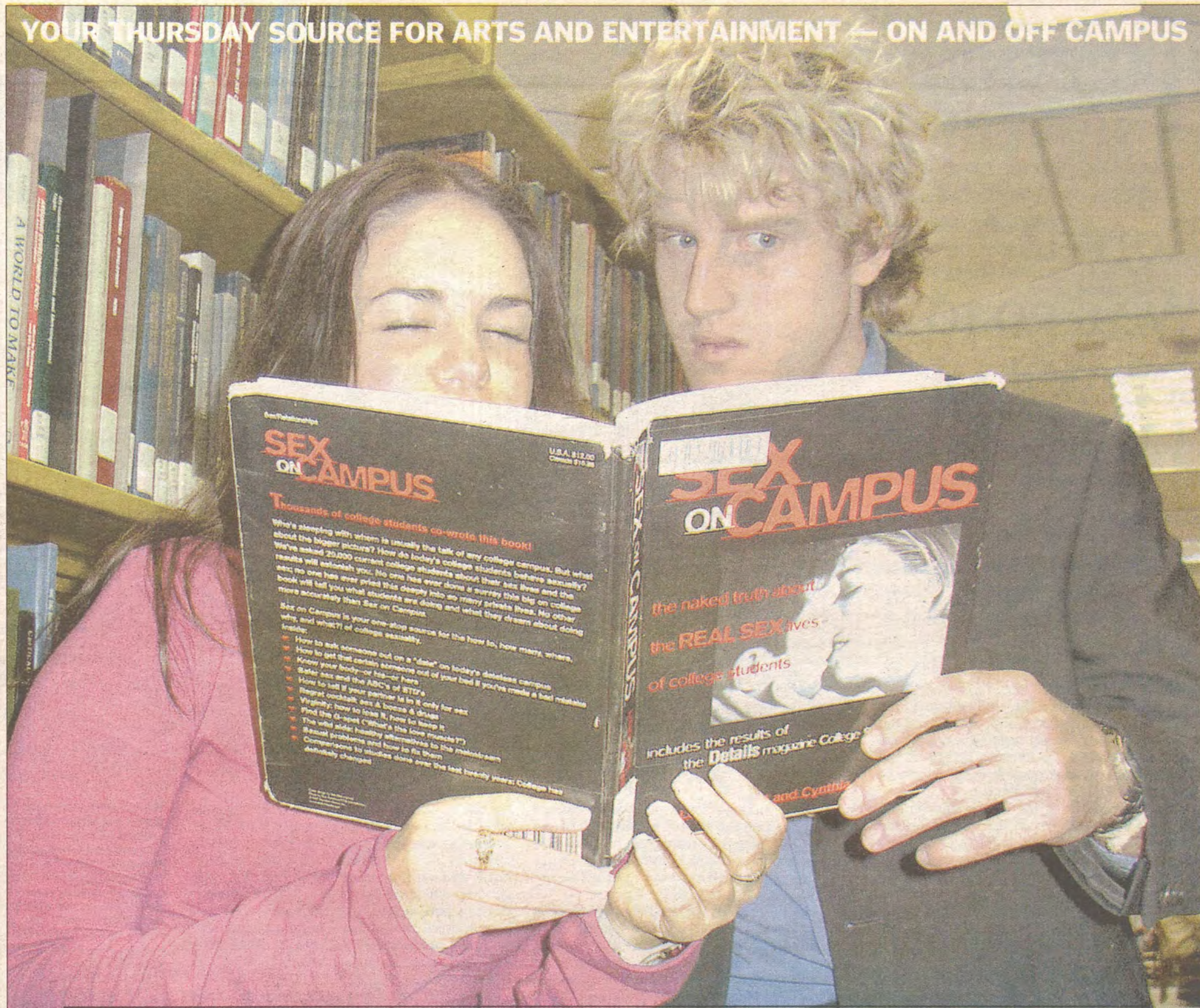
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SEX ON CAMPUS

the naked truth about
the REAL SEX lives
of college students

includes the results of
the Details magazine College

and Cynthia

i
THE INDIE

Vol. V, No. 20, Feb. 10 - Feb. 16, 2005

Have a romantic Valentine's Day
without leaving campus

— PAGE 10

Sugarcult takes
action at the HOB

— PAGE 8

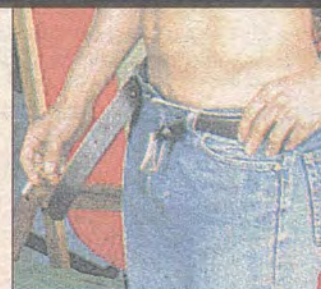
Ye olde Valentines
from the late 1800s

— PAGE 9

It's good to have a
Bad Education

— PAGE 14

Happenings ... 2 | Music ... 6 | Life ... 9 | Movies ... 13 | Ramblings ... 18



HAPPENINGS

Bored? We'll go to see Wilco!

Alternative rock innovators
reinvent themselves yet again

CHRIS BOWERS
Staff Writer

Music has been dealt a lot of bad blows lately, including Nickelback being nominated for a hard rock Grammy, Ashlee Simpson and the invention of the word "emo-core." Music, however, is a resilient fighter, and recently there have been signs that it's trying to fight back. Bright Eyes debuting at No. 10 on the Billboard Top 50 Albums chart, Weezer seemingly ready to finally release their long-awaited Rick Rubin produced/mentored fifth album and the release of Brian Wilson's masterpiece *Smile* all give hope to those of us who cringe at the thought of Hoobastank possibly being winner of the Grammy for best rock album.

And perhaps one of the largest signs is that more and more people are learning about the Chicago-based band Wilco. In the past two years the band has released what is widely recognized as one of the first classic albums of the century in *Yankee Hotel Foxtrot*, and they followed that up with *A Ghost is Born*, a more toned-down album which won the group even more praise. The band has even released *The Wilco Book*, a strange, artsy, picture-filled coffee-table book, which documents the band's journey throughout the past two years.

Now you have your chance to help good music return to glory by going out to the House of Blues on Wednesday and seeing Wilco per-

form live. If you have never seen Wilco or heard their music, then this is your opportunity to discover one of America's truly great bands. There really is something for everyone to enjoy here, for the live sound of the band covers a broad area of the musical spectrum.

In *The Wilco Book*, the band's house engineer, Stan Doty, elaborates on their live sound, "Wilco is a complicated band to mix. Jeff [Tweedy, lead singer] plays old-school at times, and other times he's totally cutting-edge. It's tricky but refreshing ... One of the greatest things about this band is that they go from low-fi to high-fi, low dynamics to high dynamics, cutting-edge stuff to old-school."

At its very best, live music is inarguably good

for the soul. Jeff Tweedy sums this up, and whether he intended to or not gives us all one last argument to go see Wilco live when he writes in *The Wilco Book*, "The main reason I think touring is really good is that it's really good — and good for you — to play music in front of people and to participate in bringing people together, sharing — and on a good night — really connecting with a bunch of people in a room all listening to the same thing. It's a really great thing to do."

So at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday do yourself a favor and go see Wilco at the House of Blues. Tickets range from \$22.50 to \$35. And please, help save music!

Members of Wilco have good reasons to be all smiles. After a traumatic 2002 that saw the band nearly lose the release of their masterful *Yankee Hotel Foxtrot*, then having their problems documented in a terrific film a year later, the last two years have proved more fruitful. The band, having found on home on dassy label Nonesuch, is touring in support of its eclectic *The Ghost is Born* and a new book about the band. See them Tuesday at the House of Blues.



COURTESY NONESUCH



THE INDIE

The indie is the Thursday arts and entertainment section of the *Central Florida Future*, the free independent campus newspaper of the University of Central Florida. Opinions in the indie are those of the individual columnist only and not necessarily those of the editorial staff. All content is property of the indie and may not be reprinted in part or in whole without permission from the publisher.

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AP
Associated Press

IN THE ISSUE Vol. V, No. 20, Feb. 10 — Feb. 16, 2005

And now, behold! Two sex columns for you.

One is penned by Marilyn Manno, an old *The Independent Journal* staffer.

The other is the work of Nicholas Markovich, a new hand around here.

With their powers combined, they form Marko a Manno. Or Manno a Marko. Depending on who's talking. Regardless, they never form Captain Planet. And what was up with the

power of heart, anyway?

At any rate, read about the best Super Bowl commercials and the worst love song is far this decade in the Ramblings section.

Bonowicz takes on The Man in his Cinescene column (and loses).

Also, should you travel back in time, you may find our guide to Valentine cards from the 1800s useful. Enjoy!

— BRANDON HARDIN

MegaCon

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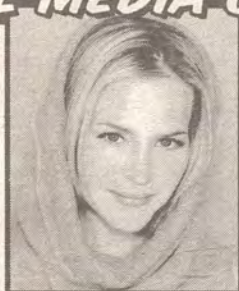
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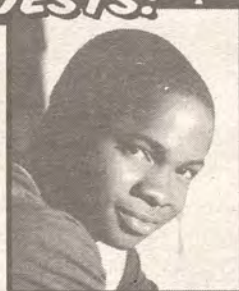
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Sam Jones III
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2005



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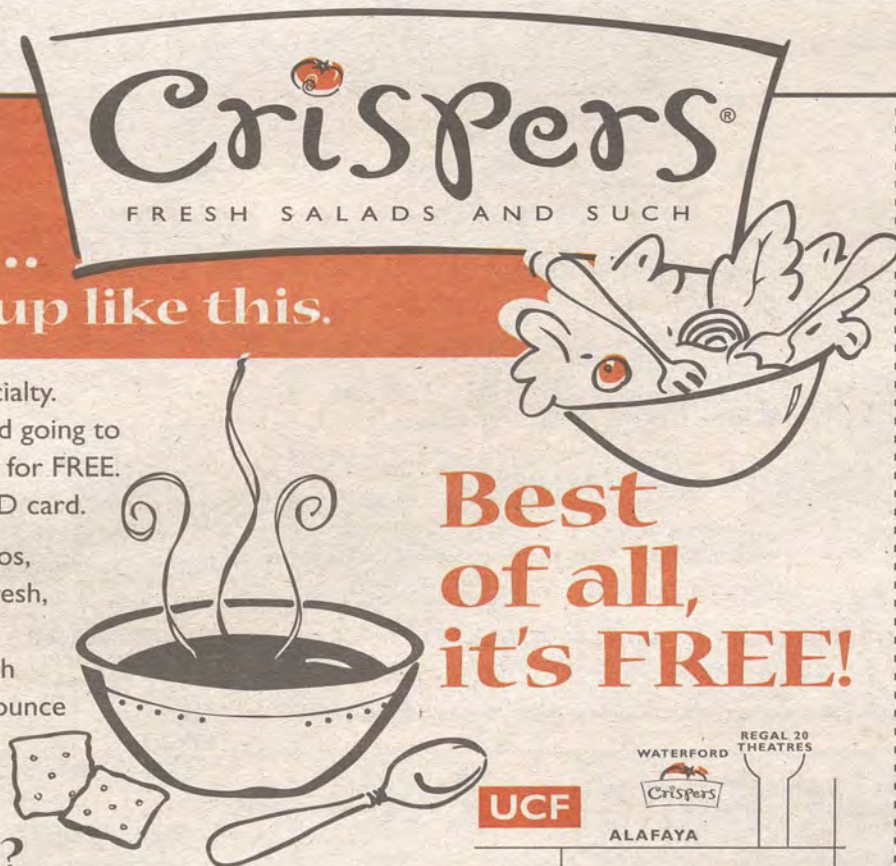
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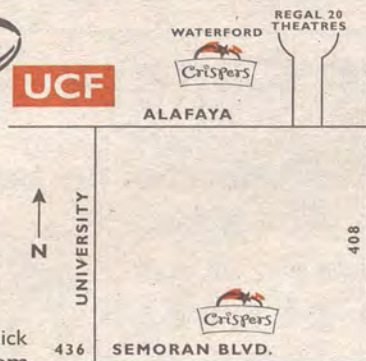
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HAPPENINGS

CALENDAR

CAMPUS

VUCF Labor of Love

Feb. 10, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., free
Student Union
Garden Key Rm. 221AB
N_irizarry85@yahoo.com

George Will

Feb. 10, 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., free
Student Union
Pegasus Ballroom
407-823-0935

Dance Marathon Date Auction

Feb. 10, 8 p.m. to 10 p.m.
Gators Dockside
12448 Lake Underhill Road
407-823-6471

UCF Jazz Ensemble

Feb. 10, 8 p.m. to 10 p.m., free
Visual Arts Building
Auditorium
407-823-5411

Black History Month Funny Fridays

Feb. 11, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., free
Student Union
Cape Florida Ballroom Rm. 316
msc@mail.ucf.edu

Julia Heinen Clarinet Recital

Feb. 11, 8 p.m. to 10 p.m., free
Rehearsal Hall
Room 116
407-823-5116

Miss UCF

Feb. 12, 8 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., free
Student Union
Pegasus Grand Ballroom
407-823-6471

Chocolat

Feb. 14, 8 p.m. to 10 p.m., free
Student Union
Cape Florida Ballroom Rm. 316
407-823-6471

Black History Month Brain Bowl

Feb. 15, 8 p.m. to 10 p.m., free
Student Union
Garden Key Room 221AB
msc@mail.ucf.edu

Tribute to a Black Artist

Feb. 16, 7:15 p.m. to 10 p.m., free
Student Union
Room 218CD
msc@mail.ucf.edu

EVENTS

38th Annual Central Florida Boat Show

Feb. 10 to Feb. 13, various times, \$4 to \$8
Orange County Convention Center
9800 International Drive
407-298-1167

Twelfth Night

Feb. 12, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., free
Downtown Kissimmee
Broadway and Monument Avenues
407-933-5679

IMAGES: A Festival of the Arts

Feb. 12 to Feb. 13, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., free
Riverside Park
South Riverside Drive and Downing Street
New Smyrna Beach

386-423-4733

Orlando Rumblers Car Show

Feb. 13, noon, \$5
Cowboys Orlando
1108 S. Orange Blossom Trail
407-422-7115

The Cocktail Hour

Feb. 14, 8 p.m., free
The Peacock Room
1321 N. Mills Ave.
407-228-0048

Valentine Stroll

Feb. 14, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., \$18.50
Harry P. Leu Gardens
1920 N. Forest Ave.
407-246-2620

Jane Hirschfield

Feb. 15, 1 p.m. to 2 p.m., free
Valencia Community College West Campus
1800 S. Kirkman Road
407-299-5000

SHOWS:

Sugarcult, The Early November, Hopesfall, Hawthorne Heights, Maxeen (punk)

Feb. 10, 6 p.m., \$17
House of Blues
Downtown Disney West Side
407-934-2583

Doria Roberts, Three 5 Human (rock)

Feb. 10, 8 p.m., \$8-\$10
The Social
54 N. Orange Ave.
407-246-1419

Junkie Rush (rock)

Feb. 10, 9 p.m., \$5-\$7
Will's Pub
1850 N. Mills Ave.
407-898-5070



GARGAMEL!

Luna Beloved (rock)

Feb. 10, 8 p.m., free
Ballard & Corum
535 W. New England Ave.
407-539-1711

Adam Cohen, Mike Dougherty (rock)

Feb. 11, 9:30 p.m., \$3
Natura Coffee and Tea
12078 Collegiate Way
407-482-5000

Kingsbury, Apollo Quartet, Evil Ballerina (indie)

Feb. 11, 9 p.m., \$5
Orlando Island Oasis
2716 N. Forsyth Rd.
407-657-6047

Vancouver!, Six on Sunday, The Black Rabbits (indie)

Feb. 11, 7 p.m., \$7
O-Zone CDs
1002 W. Hwy 436
407-862-1002

Dead Gospel, Lost in Progress, Fleshweld, Grumpy* (metal)

Feb. 11, 8 p.m., \$5
The Haven, 6700 Aloma Ave.
407-673-2712

The Band of the Name, On Cassette, Loaded for Bear (indie)

Feb. 11, 10 p.m., \$4
The Peacock Room
1321 N. Mills Ave.
407-228-0048

d Manufacture, Cori Yardkin, The Morning After, New Crash Position

Feb. 11, 8:30 p.m., \$6
Hard Rock Live
CityWalk at Universal Orlando
407-351-5483

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SATURDAY

Roger Lee
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HAPPENINGS

CALENDAR

FROM i4

Gargamel! (metal)

Feb. 11, 10 p.m., \$5
Copper Rocket Pub
106 Lake Ave.
407-645-0069

Florganism, Bad Bear (rock)

Feb. 11, 9 p.m., \$5
Will's Pub
1850 N. Mills Ave.
407-898-5070

Rocket 88, Hindu Cowboys (various)

Feb. 11, 9 p.m., \$5-\$7
The Social
54 N. Orange Ave.
407-246-1419

Take Out, Fin, Pretty Ugly, Kristie DeLuca (rock)

Feb. 12, 9 p.m., \$5-\$7
The Social
54 N. Orange Ave.
407-246-1419

Kenneth Brian, The Delusionaires (rock)

Feb. 12, 10 p.m., \$5
Copper Rocket Pub
106 Lake Ave.
407-645-0069

One Drop (rock)

Feb. 12, 9 p.m., \$5-\$7
Will's Pub
1850 N. Mills Ave.
407-898-5070

Bluelegs, Cadillac Recipe, Mobius, Fat Americans (rock)

Feb. 12, 8:30 p.m., \$6
Hard Rock Live
CityWalk at Universal Orlando
407-351-5483

Bruce Hornsby (pop)

Feb. 12, 5 p.m., free
55 West
55 W. Church St.
407-423-9666

Florganism (rock)

Feb. 12, 10 p.m., free
The Peacock Room
1321 N. Mills Ave.
407-228-0048

Cestair, Fallen Heroes, Room Service (indie)

Feb. 12, 7 p.m., \$8
O-Zone CDs
1002 W. Hwy 436
407-862-1002

funkUs, Mohave (rock)

Feb. 13, 9 p.m., \$5
Slingapour's
25 Wall Street Plaza
407-849-9904

Summerbirds in the Cellar, Country Slashers, Yip Yip, Whats Yr Damage (rock)

Feb. 13, 9 p.m., free
The Social
54 N. Orange Ave.
407-246-1419

Via Satellite (indie)

Feb. 14, 9 p.m., \$5
Will's Pub
1850 N. Mills Ave.
407-898-5070

Wilco (rock)

Feb. 15, 7:30 p.m., \$22.50-\$25
House of Blues
Downtown Disney West Side
407-934-2583

Mashlin, Abagnale, My Getaway, David Melillo (rock)

Feb. 16, 8 p.m., \$6
The Social
54 N. Orange Ave.
407-246-1419

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MUSIC

CD REVIEWS



HOOD
Outside Closer
Genre: indie/electronic
Label: Domino
Release date: Feb. 8

Hood's music is a sort of isolationist-pop: dour, gray and intentionally hookless, but richly detailed and evocative. It's very British, very redolent of gray skies and empty, wintry landscapes. Hood's pop miniatures are composed primarily of subtle synths, half-mumbled vocals, somber strings, icy acoustic guitars and slow-moving, nearly trip-hopish beats. Imagine a combination of the melancholic, pastoral pop of The Field Mice, the cold echoing, isolationist minimalism of Main and the downer trip-hop rhythms of Portishead and a pinch of Radiohead circa *Kid A*.

Outside Closer is, when you're in the right mood, pretty darn good. If you're not, however, it can be tedious and even mildly grating. Without a doubt, the weakest link is the vocals. Utterly devoid of any sort of charm or personality, listless and shapeless, they're at their very best unobtrusive, and at worst dull the magic of the music. It's easy to imagine

with stronger vocals that this album could be transformed from a pleasant (if that's quite the right word) soundtrack of moping to something genuinely memorable and moving.

After the 41 seconds of piercing static-filled glitch that makes up the first track "(Int)," comes "The Negatives," which is the obvious choice for a single. It combines a slow-motion, almost-bounce of a beat with the album's most extroverted singing and a few moments that approximate actual hooks. Any inclination the listener might have developed to dance from that track is quickly dissipated by the sprawling seven minutes of "Any Hopeful Thoughts Arrive." Anchored by a thin electronic drum loop and a circular acoustic guitar pattern, thick reverbed clouds of strings are allowed to wander about aimlessly — it's one of the tracks you definitely have to be in the right state of mind to enjoy. "Closure" has much the same effect, although

somewhat alleviated by a richer sound.

A similar acoustic guitar figure is present in the next track, "End of One Train Working," although this time with a little more forward momentum provided by what has to be the world's most morose use of handclaps. A brief interlude right in the middle of the song provides a nice change of scenery, keeping it from getting monotonous.

"Winter 72" is one of the best tracks on *Outside Closer*, starting off very much in the mode of early post-rockers Bark Psychosis, with distant chiming guitars playing strange jazzy chords, distorted vocals and lots of echo. As it develops, it shows Hood to be unafraid of abrasive sounds, with some chugging dissonant chords reminiscent of Unwound or Sonic Youth and, later on, piercing feedback squalls. Touches like those give a much needed backbone to Hood's sound.

—BRYAN COX



DALEK
Absence
Genre: hip-hop
Label: Ipecac
Release date: Feb. 8

Chuck D once referred to hip-hop as the "black CNN," but lately it seems more like an episode of *The Real World* — superficial, overdramatic and sex-obsessed. Thankfully, N. J. rappers Dalek (MC Dalek, DJ Still and producer Oktopus) prove there's more to hip-hop than droppin' it like it's hot and getting crunk.

Creating socio-political sonic missiles in the vein of Public Enemy, Rage Against the Machine and A Tribe Called Quest, the trio's fourth album, *Absence*, is a dark and gritty affair filled with dissonance and an intense philosophical urgency.

The opening track, "Distorted Prose," is a spoken-word number punctuated by a menacing bass line and the piercing blare of strings. Featuring a sound byte of a man railing, "They make caricatures out of us!" and lyrics like, "Bleak circumstance led masses to only want to dance. A bastard

child of Reaganomics posed in a B-Boy stance," "Distorted Prose" could very well be *The Revolution Will Not Be Televised* for a new generation.

While Grammy-courting Kanye West rhymes about how Jesus walks with him, Dalek takes a different approach and growls, "Your precious books are written by hands of human. This Christian Jihad will bleed the poor man," on the track "Opiate of the Masses."

In addition to stirring up religious controversy, Dalek also takes a hard-hitting look at racial strife in America. Opening with a jarring dissonance, the track "Asylum (Permanent Underclass)" features the MC snarling and spitting venom as he questions, "Irony, we never see ourselves as next prey. What, now we equals cause we have a King's holiday?"

Unlike mainstream hip-hop's heavy

reliance on James Brown samples, Dalek explores vast musical territory. "Culture For Dollars" features a distorted metal guitar riff which wouldn't be entirely out of place on a System of a Down album, and "In The Midst of Struggle" features both sinewy strings and white noise.

As avant-garde as Dalek may be, it remains true to their hip-hop roots. Vocal bravado is an intensely crucial part of the art form, and on "Distorted Prose," the raspy-voiced MC boasts, "I swallow razor blades to keep my vocal cords sharpened."

With their abrasive message, wounding lyrics and innovative instrumentals, Dalek is reclaiming hip-hop as a vehicle for social and political change. You want blunts and bling? Pick up a Lil' Jon album. You want raw, honest hip-hop? Pick up the new Dalek.

—JAIME JOSHI



ANDREW BIRD
The Mysterious Production of Eggs
Genre: adult-contemporary
Label: Righteous Babe
Release date: Feb. 8

In his second release on Ani DiFranco's Righteous Babe Records, *The Mysterious Production of Eggs*, Andrew Bird plays his guitar amidst orchestrations of violins, electronic sounds and even his own whistling. The opening track is a short instrumental prelude to the lyrical world Bird has in store for us. Following that is "Sovay," a somber song that was also included as a bonus track to the European release of his previous album, *Weather Systems*.

The album is part acoustic songwriter material and part abstract orchestral suite. Sprinkled over the top of his songs, Bird drops in swooping violins and plucked strings, which make for a satisfyingly eerie listen. Bird's soft, melodic voice comes across comforting when alongside his guitar, though remains unremarkable by itself. Standout tracks include the bouncing "Fake Palindromes" and "Opposite Day," with its crawling violins. Fans of the *Garden State* soundtrack will find no surprises in the *Production of Eggs*.

—ROB SOMERS



THE COUGHS
Fright Makes Right
Genre: noise
Label: Load
Release date: Feb. 15

The Coughs' new CD *Fright Makes Right*, out on Load Records, runs the gauntlet, going from what sounds like a Peter Pan Marching Band on a terrible, terrible trip to Sick of It All raping Courtney Love in some punk dive bathroom. As soon as the play button is pressed, a rectal-clenching screech assaults one's ears. Following the head-splitting intro, a mellow, offbeat stupor allows reticence to subside.

Soon afterward (everything is soon afterward because not even one song hits the 1:30 mark), more third-rate theatre sound effects (bottles clanging, sheet metal flapping, etc.) and annoying saxophone blurbs are swirled together like heavy doses of sedatives, which unsuccessfully attempt to counter the onslaught of hyperactive, grungy, out-of-tune guitar riffs seemingly spurred by fits of rage. The Chicago-based band of six has successfully created a musical junkie. If you dig on chaos and don't like your music to have rhythm or form, then this is your gig.

—JOSH STRASSNER

MUSIC

TOP 25

Park Ave CDs Jr.: Top 25 for the week of Jan. 30 - Feb. 5

1. Anberlin
Never Take Friendship Personal
2. Bright Eyes
I'm Wide Awake, It's Morning
3. Bright Eyes
Digital Ash in a Digital Urn
4. John Legend
Get Lifted
5. Unwritten Law
Here's to the Mourning
6. Do Or Die
D.O.D.
7. Ani DiFranco
Knuckle Down
8. Green Day
American Idiot
9. Ludacris
Red Light District
10. Jimmy Eat World
Futures
11. Killers
Hot Fuss
12. Paul Oakenfield
Perfecto Present: the Club
13. Aqueduct
I Sold Gold
14. Frankenreiter/Johnson
Some Live Songs
15. Ditty Bops
Ditty Bops
16. Straylight Run
Straylight Run
17. Crime Mob
Crime Mob
18. Arcade Fire
Funeral
19. John Frusciante
Curtains
20. Chemical Brothers
Push the Button
21. Pitty Sing
Pitty Sing
22. Black Maria
Lead Us to Reason
23. Jimmy Chamberlin
Life Begins Again
24. Erasure
Nightbird
25. Ed Harcourt
Strangers

Our third week of Grammy predictions

The top male, female, group and album awards

MICHAEL LAWRENCE
Staff Writer

In just a few days, the 47th Grammys will be upon us, and so concludes the three-week look at the different nominees. This week we take a gander at the pop categories and the biggest award of them all, Album of the Year.

Best Female Pop Vocal Performance

"Oceania," Björk: This is to the Grammys what *Sideways* is to the Oscars. The pick to show how hip the academy is without actually awarding it.

"The First Cut Is The Deepest," Sheryl Crow: This Cat Stevens song feels like it's been out forever. Cat Stevens? Does that mean Crow's a terrorist?

"Sunrise," Norah Jones: Is this a song or a jingle to accompany a coffee commercial?

"What You Waiting For?" Gwen Stefani: A fun, kitschy song that's too tongue-in-cheek for most voters' tastes.

"You Had Me," Joss Stone: This is that "I'm tough and independent" song Stone had others write for her.

Prediction: Joss Stone, who should have been in the R&B category if not for the minor discrepancy of her being white, will get her one award of the night and will thankfully fade back to obscurity.

Best Male Pop Vocal Performance

"Let's Misbehave," Elvis Costello: See Björk above.

"You Raise Me Up," Josh Groban: Speaking of jingles, this could've been used successfully in Viagra ads.

"Daughters," John Mayer.

"Cinnamon Girl," Prince: Prince came back to music with something resembling a name, with songs resembling something good. Just not good enough for a win.

"Love's Divine," Seal: Talk about your comebacks. This guy's career looked more shattered than his face, and believe me, that's saying something.

Prediction: Mayer will win this. The song is more folk than pop, but it's Christopher Crossish enough to warm its way into voters' hearts.

Best Pop Performance by a Duo or Group With Vocal

"My Immortal," Evanescence: If this loses (and it will), it'll just give the band's fans one more reason to fake-cry themselves through a melancholy weekend.

"The Reason," Hoobastank: At least they didn't put this in rock. This is the worst kind of pop out there.

"Heaven," Los Lonely Boys: With the matching harmonies, it's the only group song that feels like a true group song. So it'll lose.



COURTESY ELEKTRA

Björk is the token arty choice in the Best Female Pop Vocal Performance category, but don't expect her to win.

"She Will Be Loved," Maroon 5: A band that's both edgy and harmless at the same time. Exactly what the Grammys look for. Isn't that right, Eminem?

"It's My Life," No Doubt: With Gwen's solo career on the rise, No Doubt is too passé.

Prediction: Okay, I've been using a cheap method, which is to pick the nominee with the most overall nominations, but that usually works. With that in mind, I'll go with Maroon 5, who's already set to open the show.

Album of the Year

Genius Loves Company, Ray Charles and Various Artists: He'll lose here, but Foxx will win the Oscar for playing him, so that's decent compensation.

American Idiot, Green Day: This is the dark horse, but it's too dark to be noticed in contrast to West's sparkling bling.

The Diary Of Alicia Keys, Alicia Keys: A throwback to 1970s soul that will win in R&B categories but come up short overall.

Confessions, Usher: If there were no rookie sensation in its way, this commercial and critical monolith would've easily won.

The College Dropout, Kanye West: You don't get 10 nominations without winning the grand prize.

Prediction: I can already hear the 10-minute speech thanking Jesus. West all the way, 'nuff said.

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WATERMARK

MUSIC

Punk and emo bands Take Action tonight

Sugarcult headline annual rock show, set to help prevent teen suicide for fifth year in a row

BRANDON BIELICH
Staff Writer

Tonight, the House of Blues will house a special show: The fifth annual Sub City Take Action Tour, aimed at preventing suicide. Previous participants on the tour have included Jimmy Eat World, Taking Back Sunday and Hot Water Music. This year's headliners are none other than California pop-punks Sugarcult.

Known for their breakout hits "Stuck in America" and "Bouncin' off the Walls," Sugarcult has traveled all around the world, rocking every spot on the globe. But last week, the quartet began touring hoping to send a different message to friends and fans across the nation: stopping suicide.

According to the National Mental Health Association, suicide ranks as the third leading cause of death in young adults ranging ages 15-24. Take Action works with the National Hopeline Network to provide a way for fans to communicate about suicide prevention, as well as dealing with tragic loss. By dialing a simple 800-number (800-SUICIDE), those in trouble can literally call for help.

President of Hopeless/Sub City Records and founder of the Take Action Tour, Louis Posen, described how the Take Action Tour came about.

"Hopeless Records was going for about five years when we realized we were reaching hundreds of thousands of people and there was a unique opportunity there to do something positive," he said. "So we launched our sister label Sub City, which donates [money] to non-profit organizations and raises awareness. That same year, we decided to take that concept to the road, and that's how the Take Action Tour was born."

So where does the concert come into play? Well, tickets run for \$17, cheap enough to fit even the average "starving college kid's" budget. Plus, proceeds from the show benefit the National Hopeline Network. Ultimately, concert-goers can enjoy a night of rock music and make a difference in the lives of many at the same time.

As Posen explains, "The tour wouldn't exist without the fans. The fans are the ones buying the CD and paying to go to the show, and that's how all this happens."



COURTESY TRUSTKILL RECORDS

Your hopes didn't fall if you hoped to Hopesfall this year. The quintet will be performing tonight at the House of Blues with Sugarcult, The Early November and more.

And your time and effort truly can make a difference. Because of overwhelming fan support through petitions and fundraising, Take Action recently launched the Youth America Hotline (1-877-YOURLINE), a peer-to-peer youth line for those in need.

"We realized...that young people want to talk to young people. [They told us] if it was a peer-to-peer line, they would feel much less hesitation and more comfortable calling. So, Kristin Brooks Hope Center took the initiative to start 877-YOURLINE," commented Posen.

In addition to the tour, Sub City has released its *Take Action Vol. 4* CD, featuring 41 songs from various artists including Taking Back Sunday, Coheed & Cambria, Mae, NOFX and Andrew WK. The CD retails for only about \$4.99, and proceeds also help fund the National Hopeline Network. When asked about the ultimate goal of the Take Action

Tour, Posen said, "Our mission with Take Action is to create a better world, one voice and one action at a time. It's about empowering people; giving people information and letting them make choices. If you're not armed with all the information, it's hard to make good choices."

Now, it's time for you to make the right choice. With another all-star lineup, this year's tour is sure to make a significant difference. But it all starts with you. So come out tonight and show your support.

Doors open at 6:00; show starts 6:45 at House of Blues in Lake Buena Vista/Downtown Disney. Joining Sugarcult will be The Early November, Hawthorne Heights, Hopesfall and Max-een.

For more information check out www.takeactiontour.com. The Take Action Vol. 4 CD is available in stores or online at www.hopelessrecords.com.

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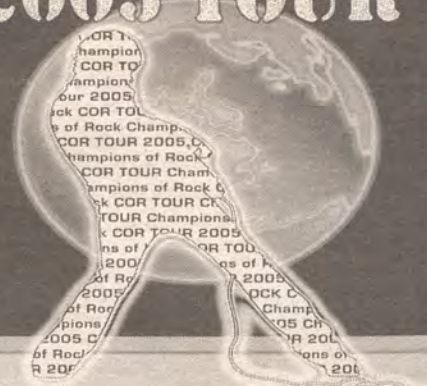
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LIFE

Will you
be my
Valentine?Check out vintage
Valentine greetingsMATT HEDGECOCK
Staff Writer

As you know, Valentine's Day is a fake holiday invented by card and candy companies."

Sound familiar? It's the same old line your one cynical friend hauls out every year when Valentine's Day rolls around. Well, the good people at the Orange County Regional History Center are determined to silence all of those naysaying single people.

From now until Feb. 20, the History Center will be showcasing the exhibit "Forget Me Not: Vintage Valentines," a small but impressive collection of Valentines from the Victorian Era and beyond. The exhibit also explains the origins of the amorous holiday.

"The origin, believe it or not, is still somewhat of a mystery," explains Tara Oliver, archivist for the OCRHC.

Historians aren't sure, but the Valentine's Day is thought to be a merging two separate Pagan and Christian holidays — Lupercalia and the feast celebrating St. Valentine.

Lupercalia was a fertility holiday celebrated in the Pagan Roman Empire to help make crops, animals and people more fruitful. Of course, this wasn't achieved by passing around candy hearts — but rather by flogging people and animals with goat skins. Not exactly most people's idea of a good night on the town.



COURTESY ORANGE COUNTY REGIONAL HISTORICAL CENTER

"We're talking about a group of people that were shepherds, so fertility was life," said Oliver.

As the Roman Empire became Christianized, its people began celebrating new holidays. One of these holidays was an annual feast honoring St. Valentine, the patron saint of lovers, who secretly married young couples against the Emperor's wishes.

Finally, it was decided that since both holidays were celebrated so close together, that it would be easier to just have one holiday, and Valentine's Day was born.

The holiday would be celebrated throughout the Middle Ages, but it wasn't until the Victorian Era that the art of woo started to get serious.

"In some parts of England they actually spent more money on Valentine's than Christmas," said Oliver.

As the holiday's popularity grew, cards and tokens of affection got increasingly more elaborate. All manners of lace, calligraphy and art were used to express the eternal human sentiment of "I like you." Cards also became double and triple-deckered, with fold-out layers that make the cards look not-so-subtly like a wedding cake. In this era, cards were hand-

made and poems were composed by the sender.

"[The poems] are very serious," said Oliver. "It's like 'It's the end of the world if you don't reciprocate my love to you.'"

The following poem is an example of this sentiment:

*Oh! Send me, Dear a line,
For now Saint Valentine
Has come again!
And smiles and tender sighs;
Are but the thin disguise
Of love's sweet chains!*

Well, it sure beats "Be Mine."

Most of the cards in the History Center's collection come from the late 1800s and early 1900s, and range from simple mass-produced cards to ultra-elaborate expressions of devotion. The holiday has lost little of its popularity today — it is estimated that nearly 2 billion Valentine's Day cards are purchased every year, which is second in total behind Christmas.

So next time someone accuses Valentine's Day of being a fake holiday, you can tell them exactly where to stuff that box of assorted chocolates.

we're all a little cynical about V-Day lately, I'm still a girl.

Yeah, that's right. I said it, and to all you girls out there who are cursing the notion of flowers and candy this Monday, cut me a break — you're not fooling anyone.

C'mon, own up to it ladies. I know that Hallmark invented it, and there's all this pressure on you to find a date or to plan the perfect night, yada yada yada blah blah blah. Even if you're single, you all need to relax.

Exhaustion, like alcohol, can be a bit like truth serum, and at the moment I'm absolutely too "drunk" to lie. So, I'm going to be honest with you.

I love flowers, and I love Valentine's Day. I really do. I love the fact that once a year everybody gets all mushy, that VH1 is counting down the 100 greatest love songs of all time, and the world is so permeated with it that we have no choice but to stop and appreciate the people we love.

Wow, I'm going to regret this in the morning. But the truth is, other than that it already is morning, that even though

MARKO A MANNO

Love is worth
all the hypeNew columnist's debut a
rumination on nature of loveNICHOLAS MARKOVICH
Staff Writer

My name is Nick. I will be penning the male half of the love/sex/dating column (until I get exposed as a fraud and am subsequently fired). Now that I've gotten my introduction out of the way, I don't want to waste any more time before I place a charge upon everyone reading this column: I want each and every one of you to go out and seek love this week.

Do not be alarmed by such a brazen call to action found tucked away in this sarcastic and cynical (but wonderful) publication. I am marching forward — heart on my sleeve, hope as my guide — and I've got just one question: Who's coming with me? For once, let's use this holiday as a starting point of a new adventure rather than a benchmark of loneliness and isolation.

No talk of Valentine's Day as a "Hallmark holiday." Save the scientific research that claims that the chemical high of love is no different than that of chocolate. Be not afraid. We all (myself definitely included) have to spend less time in our shells; reaching out and leaving yourself exposed can be absolutely terrifying, but the potential rewards are too great to ignore. It's very easy to convince yourself that it's better to be alone, but I submit to you that it is not better, only safer.

Love, in its proper and fully-realized form, is the greatest thing that we have in life. Spare me your petitions for great sex, fantasy football, or (God help us) your new Playstation game. Our everyday speech has critically dampened the impact of our greatest virtue. You don't really "love" your new pair of jeans. Angelina Jolie may be mind-numbingly hot, but you haven't shared the necessary intimate and exceptional experiences with her to legitimately proclaim your "love" for her (and if you have, kudos to you). The iPod may be the greatest thing ever invented, but you ... Well, maybe you can love the iPod.

But I am writing this piece with the hope that more people will go out and experience those incredible moments that don't come around often enough. Love, people. LOVE!

Kissing someone's neck for hours, fully aware that, in the infinite expanse of the universe, there is no place that you would rather be. Putting your arm around them as they sleep and watching the world's softest smile spread across their perfect face. The satisfaction in knowing that this person, the most divine and beautiful creature that God has ever created, cares as deeply for you as you do for them. Coming to the realization that, despite all of the education/experiences/improvements you have gone through in your life, you are still only 1 percent of what you are with the person you love.

What I'm asking for is not easy. I can't provide you directions, statistics, or a Heartbreak Insurance policy. I will tell you that the good does outweigh the bad, and the pain of rejection or loss

MANNO A MARKO

Be creative, not broke, this Valentine's Day

MARILYN MANNO
Staff Writer

I am the biggest procrastinator I know. If there's something that needs to be done, rest assured I'll find 356 other things that must be done first. Right now it's about 2 a.m. and so far I've cleaned my room, put pictures into a photo album, watched three and a half episodes of Sex and the City and doodled the coolest picture on my notebook of a girl lying on a beach. The only thing I haven't done tonight is write my column which incidentally is due right now.

PLEASE SEE **GIRLS** ON 112PLEASE SEE **HE BELIEVES** ON 112

LIFE

the indie's guide to Romantic Bliss on campus



ROBBIE RABORN
Staff Writer

Be aware of your surroundings, students: Your campus is more than a place of learning, studying, and reading *the indie*. UCF is the absolute most romantic place on earth for you and your soul-mate. Trust me ... I draw stick-figure comics.

Monday, you and your significant otro (that's romantic Spanish for "other") will be sitting around wondering how the two (or three) of you will make this Monday unbelievably memorable without having to leave campus. No worries, friends. I am willing to share my heart and soul (and wiener) so you will not feel lost in the way of campus dating. With the assistance of my lovely assistant, Carolina, assisting me, we will pave your way to an amazing Valentine's Day. Take notes.

1 Construction Lot: Making a lasting impression of your love is simple with a little dirt. UCF has plenty to offer with all the construction lots present. Equip the stem of a rose as your mighty pen and lead your sweetheart by the hand towards any bulldozer yard to make public the story of your romance.

2 Student Health Center: I understand that you can look beyond your sweetie's dating history but your immune system cannot. Genital herpes, Gonorrhea, Syphilis, and Chlamydia are all hilarious to talk about. But it's when these pathogens enter your body that it becomes no laughing matter. Unless it involves Paris Hilton, then it is pretty funny after all. Get tested!

3 Recreation and Wellness Center: I know what you're assuming. "Robbie is going to say how staying in shape can lead to a great sex life."

Wrong, jerk! I study micro and molecular biology so I understand how pheromones (aka "baby-making vapor") are released after a good sweat. You want this to happen. Visit the rec center to pump affection.

4 Library: Even professional cupids like myself need to review the art of campus lovin'. This is why the library is a perfect place to grab a romantically informative book (i.e. the Kama Sutra) and a study room. Remember to bring a "Do Not Disturb" door hanger. I prefer the "Do Not Disturb — I am currently naked practicing Indian love-making in this quiet-study room" door hanger.

5 Boardwalks: UCF's No. 1 cash crop is squirrels. They are harvested directly behind the Union around the boardwalks. Unfortunately, the squirrels are multiplying toward overabundance. Fortunately for you and your boo, practicing animal control while feeding cute rodents is entirely feasible! Check out this little guy about to eat a delicious animal cracker. Unbeknownst to him, it is his last meal. How romantic!

6 Student Union: Does a private picnic in a beautiful forest sound perfect for romance? No, it does not. Go public with your dining and eat where every student can turn reddish-green with love-envy. Carolina and I chose the Pegasus circle in the Student Union (probably the most romantic location on earth).

7 Reflection Pond: You are probably not aware of this, but your special someone adores Neil Diamond. Learn his complete works and serenade your beauty by the reflection pond. Here I am with Carolina after three straight hours of Diamond bliss. And she loves every second of it.

8 Arcade: Want to level up on your dance moves all while leveling up on your relationship value? Yes, you do. One afternoon, I spent \$320.50 in quarters just so that Carolina and I could become dance geniuses.





LIFE

New perfume is sweat 'n' wild

SHARON PARE
Staff Writer

Pheromones. They are what lure your significant other to you. Forget how intelligent he or she may be. Or how great that sense of humor is. Or how you get those butterflies of excitement in your stomach. Pheromones are what create that great chemistry between the two of you that make you feel those fireworks.

But perhaps it's not the sole explanation of why you two are attracted to each other. Maybe you want to rely on the fact that you were meant to be, or that you were destined to be together, or because you two are soul mates.

Is love strictly based on fate alone, or is there a scientific meaning?

Now women, let us not ponder the days we start to experience hot flashes and frequent mood swings (some of which, men say, have become a natural occurrence). One day, we are going to get old and die. And before we do, our sex appeal and attraction toward our mates will decrease. This is where this new perfume comes in.

You may have heard of fragrances containing pheromones, but this is nothing like that. This new perfume is marketed toward older women who have had less affection from their partners due to a decrease in their "desirability."

The perfume is unique and was specially developed under very keen screening. Essentially, the pheromone was "isolated from a young woman's armpit sweat," according to *New Scientist Magazine*. The special "ingredient" in this new perfume is Pheromone 10:13, present only in younger women.

"When I'm older, I don't think I will be attracted to my wife because of her smell," said Navin Ramoutar, triple major senior in marketing, ad/PR and finance. "And it's stupid to think that smell has anything to do with her attractiveness. I prescribe to the love theory. Plus, older men don't really want to smell younger women ... they just want the younger woman."

What are some cheaper alternatives for an older woman? Walk by the younger women on treadmills in the gym and finger-attack her armpit! Take sweat and start spreading it all over your neck.

Aside from the marketing efforts the company will have to overcome, it can also become one of the most difficult perfumes to manufacture. Sure, armpit sweat is a natural ingredient, and it won't be hard to pay young women to help contribute to this ingenious idea, but just how many gallons of sweat make a profitable amount of this new perfume?

"Sweat of the younger women makes the older men more attractive," states a perfume2000.com article about a Harvard University research study. Take a look at Donald Trump and his current wife, or Michael Douglas and Catherine Zeta-Jones, both primo examples that older men love the pheromones of their younger counterparts. Sophomore and accounting major Jordan Egert calls Pheromone 10:13 "perfume that makes you think you can steal a man's money."

Still, it's a little difficult and quite disturbing to imagine your grandparents bumpin' uglies.

"Don't sweat maturity," said senior and hospitality major Rob Sharkey. "Aspire to perspire."

Girls prefer the cute and mushy

FROM 19

Why can't Valentine's Day be fun again, the way it used to be when we were kids? Remember taping Hershey's Kisses to paper cards with cartoon characters on them that read "Be Mine?" How come we forgot why roses were red and violets were blue, and replaced it with the idea that Valentine's Day had to be all about pressure and unmet expectations?

I don't know why women need this. I'm not a scientist, but there is something in our very nature that yearns for a little beauty a few days out of the year, and it doesn't have to be expensive for a guy. In fact, the more money you spend the less it matters to us.

I'll give you an example. My best friend's boyfriend called me a couple weeks ago and asked my advice on an anniversary gift for her. Already at the mall and staring at an expensive purse, James was lost and confused. I told him to put the purse down, and

to do something sentimental. "The mushier the better," were my exact words.

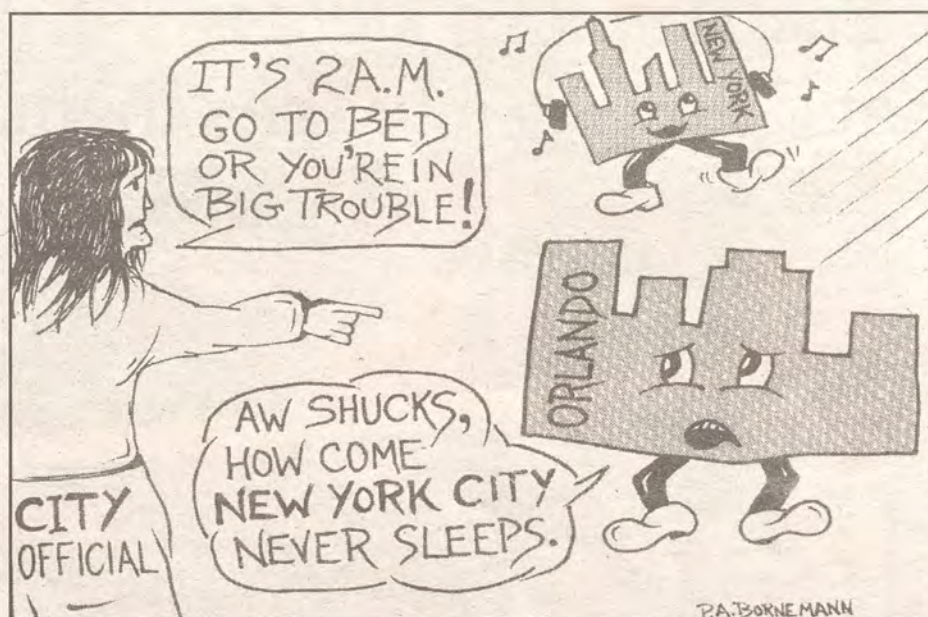
A few days later I got a phone call. "James is soooooo cute!" a voice on the other end shrieked like Ashlee Simpson. "What did he do?" I said, trying my best to sound surprised. By giving her a locket with pictures of the two of them in it, James had now been dubbed the coolest person in Jenny's universe.

I know there are guys out there who are saying, "But my girl doesn't demand that kind of stuff; she's cool like that." I promise you and I say this without a doubt in my mind, she wants it. And seriously, why wouldn't you want to give it to her?

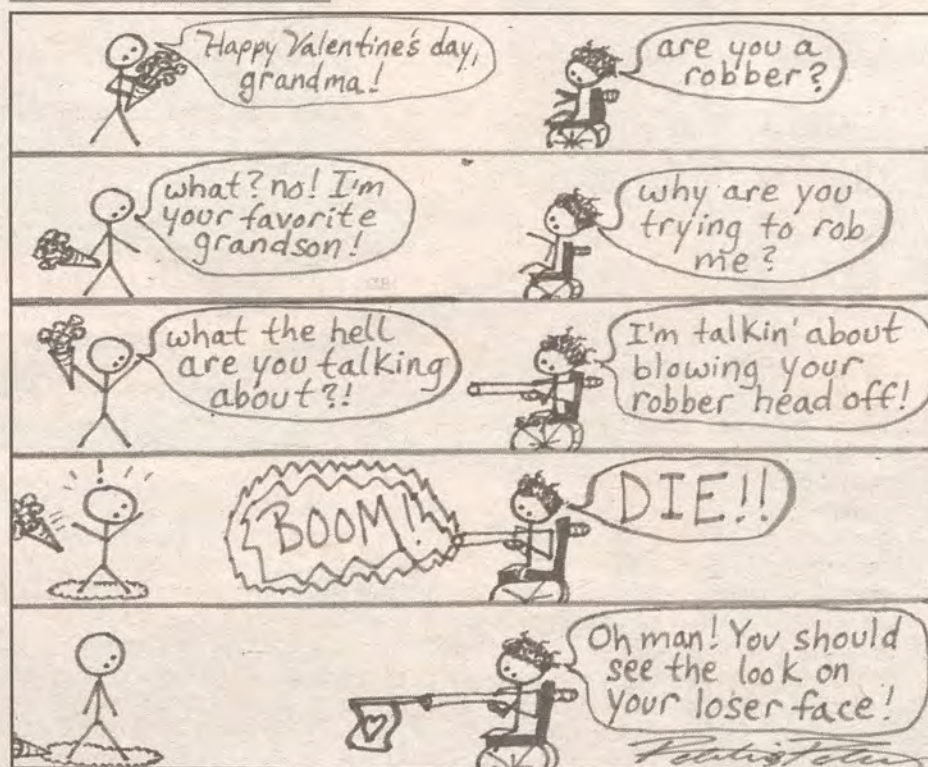
We're talking about the girl who laughs at all your jokes, and trust me, they're not that funny. She's the girl who still thinks you're cute when you haven't showered and smiles when you burp as if it were a work of art. She loves you, you noodle-head. Do something nice.

FUTURE FUNNIES

The indie now has full access to the *Future's* archives, so each week we're bringing you an old editorial cartoon. Check out this one from Sept. 19, 1991. We learned that Orlando isn't as metropolitan and swingin' as New York. How profound.



REAL LIFE FOR REAL



He believes in a thing called love

FROM 19

pales considerably to the lingering sting of regret. Greatness is rarely achieved without risk. When you are on your deathbed, you will not remember that girl who turned you down for a date back in college. You WILL remember every great love that has blessedly come across your path.

If anyone doubts the sincerity in this column, let me assure you that I am com-

pletely serious in everything that I've said (except the iPod). I believe in a thing called love like I am The Darkness. Seeing people holding hands as they walk around campus makes me happy. I'd like to see more of it. If you happen to see me around and find yourself lucky enough to be falling towards love (or at least the nascent stages of it), let me know. You won't have to say much, or anything, really; the gleam in your eyes and the smile on your face will tell all.

MOVIES

FILM REVIEW ★★...

The Wedding Date is a Will and Disgrace to the cinema



Kat Ellis (Debra Messing) puts on lipstick while an out-of-focus Nick Mercer (Dermot Mulroney) ignores her for a book. COURTESY UNIVERSAL PICTURES

It may be a different title, but this romcom is the same old fluff

CAROLINA GROPPA
Staff Writer

During this past weekend, the star of the hit show *Will & Grace* descended upon chick flick audiences everywhere, coyly starring in the nightmarish *The Wedding Date*.

Revolving around Kat Ellis (Debra Messing), this film tells the story of a never-married New Yorker whose presence is demanded at her sister's wedding. All seems to go well for what should be a blissful occasion, but then Kat discovers the best man is none other than her ex-fiancé who inexplicably left her. Desperate, dateless and displeased, Kat hires a professional male escort to pose as her boyfriend at the wedding and to have a victorious day for womankind. Enter Nick Mercer (Dermot Mulroney), an amiable and attractive lad, whose qualities far exceed average good looks and charisma, causing her ex to dwell in his loss. But what she doesn't anticipate is that this suave, smart and sexy man with the soul of a hopeless romantic falls in love with her.

The plot thickens when Kat realizes that Nick truly embodies all the characteristics she seeks: the ideal son-in-law, the best friend and basically the object of every woman's desire. The sound extorted from this drum sounds all too familiar. Even though director Claire Kilner attempts to recreate the magic of classic romantic movies, certain ideas and scenes

are imitated but far from duplicated. A prime example for imitation gone awry is in the underdevelopment of the relationship between Kat and Nick. Even your average testosterone-tempered Joe realizes that the supposed bond between the darlings feels rushed, resulting in the film's poor flow. The affection exhibited happens like clockwork, becoming extremely unbelievable and leaving spectators with too many questions and virtually no answers (aside from the predictable resolution).

Some patrons may appreciate the decent cinematography, which manages to shine a light of hope for the film. However, greater portions of the viewing audience, namely those without estrogen, will be unengaged by the film's hackneyed plot.

Oddly enough, this is Messing's debut as a lead, but some say that her performance still remains small-screen, lacking the essentials to make the character unique. Although the comedic timing of Messing and the sex appeal of Mulroney combine to allegedly create an interesting dynamic, Messing doesn't stray too far away from her role as Grace Adler in *Will & Grace*. Ultimately, Messing should be grateful she kept her day job.

If cynicism sits this one out, one will discover that an underlying theme exists: It is easier to hide behind what we no longer have than to venture out and see what we may find. But if cynicism somehow manages to catch a glimpse from the sidelines, he'd close his eyes to bypass the corny one-liners that no one ever says except in the movies. He'd release a sigh filled with disbelief, and upon opening his eyes, he'd still see a conventional romantic comedy that commences as a wedding date but concludes with the inevitable fairy-tale ending.

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MOVIES



BOX OFFICE

U.S. movie revenues for Feb. 4-6

All dollar figures in millions

RANK • FILM—WEEKEND GROSS
GROSS TO DATE • WEEKS IN RELEASE • SCREENS

1. Boogeyman—\$19.0
\$19.0 • One week • 3,052
2. The Wedding Date—\$11.1
\$11.1 • One week • 1,695
3. Are We There Yet?—\$10.6
\$51.3 • Three weeks • 2,790
4. Hide and Seek—\$8.9
\$35.7 • Two weeks • 3,005
5. Million Dollar Baby—\$8.5
\$34.4 • Eight weeks • 2,025
6. The Aviator—\$5.4
\$75.9 • Eight weeks • 2,530
7. Meet The Fockers—\$4.8
\$265.2 • Seven weeks • 2,504
8. Sideways—\$4.7
\$46.7 • 16 weeks • 1,786
9. Racing Stripes—\$4.3
\$40.4 • Four weeks • 3,003
10. Coach Carter—\$4.2
\$59.3 • Four weeks • 2,574

SOURCE: AP

MOVIE TIMES

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Andrew Lloyd Webber's *The Phantom of the Opera* (PG-13)

12:50 3:50 6:40 9:50

Are We There Yet? (PG)

12:00 2:50 7:20 9:40 12:20a

Assault on Precinct 13 (R)

12:50 4:40 7:30 10:10

The Aviator (PG-13)

12:00 4:00 8:00 11:30

The Boogeyman (PG-13)

12:30 1:20 3:10 4:20 7:20 9:50 10:30 12:10a

12:50a

Coach Carter (PG-13)

12:40 3:50 6:50 10:20

Finding Neverland (PG)

6:40 9:20 12:00a

Guiana 1838 (NR)

7:40 10:40

Hide and Seek (R)

12:10 3:10 6:40 9:30 12:30a

Hitch (PG-13)

12:30 1:00 1:30 3:40 4:10 4:50 7:00 7:40 8:10 10:00

PLEASE SEE MOVIE TIMES ON I17

FILM REVIEW



COURTESY SONY PICTURES CLASSICS

Filmmaker Enrique (Fele Martinez, right) tries to piece together the mystery of childhood friend Ignacio (Gael Garcia Bernal).

Erotic noir *Bad Education* is essential Almodóvar

Spanish auteur weaves mysterious tale of transsexual drifter

PAUL HAYNES

Staff Writer

For Pedro Almodóvar, melodrama is a game, a puzzle. Almodóvar approaches his material in the same manner as Hitchcock, playing his audience, to paraphrase the latter, like an organ.

While Almodóvar's films toy with their audience, they do so in a substantial way that is enabled by the justified passions of the characters. In the end, you're left feeling richer than would be if you'd simply been perfunctorily manipulated. Almodóvar's distinguishing feature is his compassion and the way he humanizes the absurd. Consider the character of Ignacio and all of his incarnations in *Bad Education*.

A pre-op transsexual whose multiple vices and personal tragedies, as well as his almost comedic feyness, threaten to push the character into the farther reaches of camp, Ignacio is vested by Almodóvar with the right balance of mystery and dignity. We're never quite allowed to laugh at this character's expense, and by the end of the film, we have too much information to merely feel cheap pity.

As *Bad Education*, which is a few notches above *All About My Mother* but not quite as good as *Talk To Her*, opens, a filmmaker named Enrique, Almodóvar's alter-ego here, is visited by a man claiming to be an old friend from school named Ignacio. Enrique plays the situation carefully. Ignacio, he later reveals, was his first love, and he's changed quite a bit since the last time they saw each other. Enrique is strapped for new ideas, and Ignacio leaves a short story entitled "The Visit" and expresses

interest in acting in a film. "There's nothing less erotic than an actor looking for work," Enrique tells his assistant after Ignacio leaves.

Enrique begins reading the story, and we're launched into what may be a flashback, or what may be Enrique's imagining of the text. (These sequences are presented in an aspect ratio of 1.85:1, while the rest of the film is in 2.35:1.)

We learn that Ignacio and Enrique attended the same Catholic boy's school, where Ignacio was sexually exploited by the school's pedophile principal. In Ignacio's written account, he has become a drag performer named "Ángel" and returns to the priest claiming to be Ignacio's sister in an attempt to extort him.

While sexual abuse at the hands of Catholic authority figures might presently be a hot-button issue, this is not an issue film. *Bad Education* is not a grim movie, either, but a delightfully baroque celebration of cinema and films noir. Its flamboyant palette of colors has been boldly framed by cinematographer José Luis Alcaíne, who has worked with Almodóvar in the past, as well as Bigas Luna, Carlos Saura and Victor Erice. The movie is a joyous succession of stylistic and narrative surprises, commenting on the medium of cinema and on creative inspiration in an almost subversive way.

The problem with this deliberately clever approach to melodrama, of course, is that the audience never becomes fully emotionally engaged. By maintaining a gamesman's fatalistic distance from these characters, the audience does as well. You can't have it both ways, although Almodóvar very nearly succeeds.

Opens tomorrow at Enzian.

COMING TO DVD — FEB. 15

More *Darko* for your DVD dollar

Also, 2004's dregs return with *Taxi*, *Raise Your Voice*

BRETT RYAN BONOWICZ

Staff Writer

Donnie Darko: The Directors Cut

After receiving a short theatrical run this past fall, *Donnie Darko: The Director's Cut* continues the long-running tradition of a studio allowing a filmmaker to recut and reimagine his film when it realizes it can make a few extra slices of cheese from it. Director Richard Kelly has added many a minute to this cut, bringing the running time to nearly two-and-a-half hours.

Porting over none of the special features from the previous disc, this completely new two-disc collector's edition features a new commentary by writer-director Richard Kelly and Kevin Smith (Smith is featured in Kelly's new film *Southland Tales*) and a production diary with optional commentary by director of photography Steven Poster. A documentary examining the strange cult-like following of the film is explored in *They Made Me Do It Too: The Cult of Donnie Darko*. A storyboard-to-screen featurette is sure to please those with nothing better to do with their time. Even more curious is *The #1 Fan: A Darkommentary*. Apparently Fox had people send in responses as to why they're the biggest fan of *Donnie Darko*. This is the winner. Scary. Also included is the *Director's Cut* theatrical trailer.

Taxi

A far cry from the lovable TV series of the same name, *Taxi* comes from an entirely different pedigree. Starring Queen Latifah and *SNL* alumnus Jimmy Fallon, *Taxi* is a film that's dead on arrival, a film so vile not even the ravages of DVD can save it. But maybe an extended cut can. This DVD features an extended version of the movie with 15 extra minutes of *Taxiness*. Also on this two-disc special edition are commentary by director Tim Story and five featurettes, including *The Meter's Runnin'* and *Sexy Bank Robber Piece*. And along with the choice between widescreen and fullscreen in the same edition, audiences are lucky enough to find deleted scenes.

Raise Your Voice

Hilary Duff tries to act again in *Raise Your Voice*. Apparently it's about her going to some gifted musical school and raising her voice. This exciting DVD release includes a behind-the-scenes featurette and deleted scenes with optional director commentary. Check out a music video for Duff's "Fly" and probably the best special feature ever produced for a Hilary Duff film: the theatrical trailer.

MOVIES

FILM REVIEW ★★★★★

New director Penns an Assassination



COURTESY THINKFILM

Disgruntled furniture salesman Sam Bicke (Sean Penn) lays his troubles on his wife, cocktail waitress Marie (Naomi Watts). Penn's bravura performance almost outshines the rest of the stellar cast, which includes Don Cheadle.

Furniture salesmen Sean Penn loses the American dream in *Assassination of Richard Nixon* movie

PAUL HAYNES
Staff Writer

Appearance is important to Sam Bicke. To each individual of significance in his life, he presents a convenient lie. To himself, he is a "little guy" oppressed by the profit-driven powers that control America, handicapped by the rare virtues of purity and integrity. To his ex-wife, he's the top salesman at the furniture business where he works, making enough money now that he should be able to buy back his marriage. To his boss, who counsels him daily on how to improve his pathetically compromised salesmanship, he has a happy marriage and functional homelife.

In truth, Sam Bicke's life is a mountain of failures about to violently avalanche. His purity and integrity are qualities that he values but somehow cannot embody, just as he cannot embody the American Dream as he sees it.

Bicke, based on a real person, is played by Sean Penn in a searing performance that substantially improves on his overrated work in 2003's *Mystic River*, in which contorting his face into a grief-stricken grimace for the umpteenth time was somehow mistaken for character depth. In *The Assassination of Richard Nixon*, Penn and first-time director Niels Mueller (co-writing with Kevin Kennedy) have created a vividly complete character, equal parts Rupert Pupkin and Travis Bickle. Penn is implosive rather than explosive, and his character's deterioration is both scary and painful to witness, as the movie is almost ritualistic in its cataloging of this man's failures.

But the movie is more than simply a character study. It is an examination of the way American culture and its unique pres-

sure to succeed in a tokenistic way (you're either a success or a failure) can yield horrific results. Like American culture, the movie is full of counterpoints, most of which are established by television media, which provides food for Bicke's rage, a rage that triggers actions that will ultimately become food for the media. It's a symbiotic, albeit silent relationship.

Scenes are underscored with television images of Richard Nixon delivering honey-coated reassurances to the nation, which Bicke believes is ailing simply because he is ailing; solipsistically, his condition is representative of all of America.

His boss, brilliantly played by Jack Thompson, encourages Bicke to develop confidence, supplying self-improvement audiocassettes and Dale Carnegie's *How to Win Friends and Influence People*, while privately sabotaging any potential for the development of confidence by subtly demeaning and tyrannizing his employee. His wife (Naomi Watts), making ends meet by showing leg as a cocktail waitress, is

unconvinced by Bicke's boasts of progress. She seems to have heard it all before. Bicke applies for a loan in order to start his own business with a friend (Don Cheadle); as an American, certainly, he's entitled to entrepreneurship, even if he hasn't the means — and somehow, we know what the result will be. Bicke's self-serving righteousness is fueled by images of the Black Panthers on television, and with Nixon appearing at the times when he hits bottom the hardest, it's clear who's to blame for his failures.

The film is full of perfect small touches, characterizing Bicke's struggle between righteousness and violence, such as when Penn kicks over a trash pail and then kneels down and carefully gathers the emptied contents, returning them to the can. The movie is not stylized and is hypnotically focused, threatening at times to become repetitive but never quite getting there, commanding the viewer's attention for each of its 90-odd minutes until the final, haunting image.

Opens tomorrow at Regal Winter Park.

MOVIES

Hitch a ride to this amicable comedy

Will Smith charms in this decent romantic genre pic

BRETT RYAN BONOWICZ

Staff Writer

Hitch is the kind of movie that Will Smith should be making all the time. After almost single-handedly ruining *I, Robot* for infusing too much Smith into something that wanted to be taken as "serious" science fiction, the Fresh Prince of Bel-Air has always had a knack for the romantic comedy. From *Men in Black* to *Bad Boys*, Smith has had a flair for bringing out the comedy in the romance of those films. He's a suave guy, and he uses that ability to great effect in *Hitch*.

The trailer and the sub-header for this film, *The Cure for the Common Man*, may seem to lead an audience to think that the film is about a preternatural being that comes down from the sky a la Cupid. But this is just not so. "Hitch" is just the nickname of Alex Hitchens (Smith). And he's a normal guy, a guy who runs a business helping to open the channels for love for lonely singles.

Hitch is a man about love, helping people find it and helping people believe in it, though he is the proverbial example of someone who does not practice what he preaches. For the first time since his awkward college years, Hitch is dating someone he really likes (Eva Mendes), but his life as a love gigolo is obviously going to get in the way somehow.

Mendes sparks strong chemistry with Smith in exactly the opposite way Bridget Moynahan had chemistry with Smith in *I, Robot* (read: zero). As a couple in the film, they work well off one another. Smith is sometimes a personality too big for his already giant pants,

FILM REVIEW ★★★★★



COURTESY COLUMBIA TRISTAR

Kevin James (middle) competes with three other random men to lend a pen to Amber Valletta in *Hitch*.

but Mendes finds wiggling room for some irreverent banter and sordid comedic situations.

Kevin James, of *The King of Queens* "fame," puts in a decent, modest performance as Albert, one of Hitch's clients. Albert wants to woo a Paris Hilton knockoff named Allegra Cole. Allegra seems to have a larger brain than Paris, and Albert is attracted to her. But Albert is a fat schlub. And fat schlubs don't get the chance to even speak to people like Allegra Cole, let alone date her. This is where Hitch comes in.

Kevin Bisch's screenplay, his first produced, provides characters with depth where stereotypes might usually linger. His humor is sharp, and the structure behind it all sticks. He's weaving many threads and somehow all these threads come together into something that resembles less a *Cosby* sweater and more a brilliant quilt. *Hitch*

is a serviceable comedy that tries to beat the clichés to the punch by addressing them before they become a concern.

Andy Tennant's direction keeps the comedy moving even though *Hitch* does run at a slightly overstuffed two hours. Tennant, who previously made solid gold nuggets out of *Sweet Home Alabama*, *Anna & the King* and *Fools Rush In*, knows his way around the romantic comedy and actually makes a good one this time.

Switching off with Adam Sandler, who last year brought audiences the friendly and competently made *50 First Dates*, this time Valentine's Day is Smith's year. And this year he actually has a decent movie (read: not *I, Robot*).

Hitch is a movie that will fare well with Valentine's Day-type people; it's a safe, feel-good movie that's competently made, funny and sweet with a heart that's hitched to its sleeve.

CINESCENE

Bonowicz vs. Blockbuster

BRETT RYAN BONOWICZ

Staff Writer

With everyone competing for the best rental system, someone seems to have been lost in the shuffle. Me. Just me. Only me. And everyone else who rents movies.

The newest development to the heap is this "end of late fees" nonsense Blockbuster has been pimping like a brand-new prostitute ready for her first night out on the town.

Over the course of three days this past week, I attempted to rent *Alien Vs. Predator*. I wanted to watch something dumb, something a little fun and something guaranteed to be stupid. Each night I was shut out, struck with the sight of empty boxes strewn upon the shelves. All had been robbed of giving me the 90-some-odd minutes of pleasure I desired, and I had to rent *The Forgotten* instead. To quote a famous adage, *The Forgotten* was forgettable, and I decided to go back to Blockbuster again. I asked a customer service representative, "Hey, any, um, *Alien Vs. Predator* in?"

He responded, "Nah man. You gonna have a hard time findin' dat one."

I inquired further "So, with this whole 'end of late fees' thing. This kinda negates your 'guaranteed in stock' thing, huh?"

He looked down, dejected. "I've been trying to tell my manager that."

He knew I was right. He knew that this new policy made no sense. So now the casual hobo can rent from Blockbuster and take his sweet time with picking his wedgie and beating his wife while I wait for the DVD to come back. It's just not sensible.

Ask yourself the question, how long does it take to watch a 90-minute movie? Yeah, I know. 90 minutes. Even if you watch all the extras on a two-disc set, this should not take you a month to do. The end of late fees is the end of an era of sense, where the consumer was rewarded for efficiency, not being a dullard.

And if you're not gonna watch the movie in the next couple of days, what are you doing renting it in the first place? Do you get some thrill out of holding movies away from people who actually want to watch them?

You can see all the managers micro-managing the numbers, figuring out if this new deal makes them more money. It's all it's ever about. If you see a new deal anyway, that company is somehow screwing you. It's what makes my mind spin and the world go round.

My only alternative was to buy the disc. And honestly, since my wallet is not as heaving as it should be right now, this was not an option. I had been defeated. Joe Schlub had now won, and he was running around his front lawn in his jockey shorts like the sore winner he was. I still want to see the movie, but the venom of the corporation has sullied the taste in my mouth.

MOVIES

FILM REVIEW

★★•••

Silent Waters suffers from a powerful subject with poor execution

Predictable structure and open ending hurt this story of revolution in Pakistan

MIKE FERRARO

Staff Writer

Silent Waters takes place in Pakistan during the late 1970s Cultural Revolution, where religions begin to clash and Islamic extremists start reigning over a small village. However exciting that premise may sound, in the end, the film is an utter disappointment.

Saleem is a 17-year-old boy living in the small village of Charkhi with his widowed mother Ayesha (a fine performance by Kiron

Kher) and has no immediate plans for his future. The mother wants nothing but the best for her son, but when an Islamic militant group appears in their village, the boy is immediately attracted to its philosophies and quickly joins the group. With it, Saleem seems to have finally found some purpose for his life. He is fascinated at the amount of attention that the other villagers now give him when he speaks, even though he may be delivering them the wrong message. The group despises the other religious group of the village, the Sikhs, and this hatred is one of the few reasons that Ayesha wants Saleem to find other interests.

Zubeida, Saleem's beautiful love interest, can't seem to pull him from associating himself with this collection of fanatics either. Her

dreams of college and marriage work for him at first, but soon he begins to disassociate himself from both Zubeida and his mother.

Even more troubles plague Ayesha when one of the Sikhs claims himself to be her long lost brother. It is then discovered that she came from a Sikh background and in 1947, her father was terrified to what some Muslim radicals planned on doing with the women of that village, so he ordered her and her sisters to toss themselves in a deep watering well. Instead of performing the suicide order, she ran off and was captured by the very group her father was afraid of.

When some of the members of Saleem's group find this out, they begin to question his dedication to their cause. He confronts his mother and suggests a public gathering

where she can announce her devotion to their faith. This becomes a troublesome ordeal for Ayesha, since she is now struggling to deal with the past she left behind.

Silent Waters does have some good qualities. It may be interesting for those viewers that know nothing of Pakistan's brutal history to learn a thing or two from this film, but the viewer will quickly figure out where the film will end up and that is what leads to the film's failure.

Sadly, the lack of climax also kills the film. The story just builds and builds but never actually completes an actual structure. If only a more cathartic (and better edited) ending had been devised, the film may have been worth more stars.

Opens tomorrow at DMAC.

MOVIE TIMES

FROM 114

10:30 11:30 12:50a
Hotel Rwanda (PG-13)
 1:10 4:20 7:30 10:40
In Good Company (PG-13)
 12:20 3:00 7:10 10:10
Meet the Fockers (PG-13)
 12:20 4:10 6:50 9:40 12:20a
Million Dollar Baby (PG-13)
 12:30 3:30 7:10 10:20
Pooh's Heffalump Movie (G)
 12:00 1:00 2:00 3:00 4:00 5:00 6:30 9:20
Racing Stripes (PG)
 12:10 2:50
Sideways (R)
 12:40 3:40 7:10 10:00
The Wedding Date (PG-13)
 1:20 4:30 7:00 9:20 12:00a

REGAL WINTER PARK
 510 N. ORLANDO AVE., 407-628-0163
Alone in the Dark (R)
 10:35
Andrew Lloyd Webber's The Phantom of the Opera (PG-13)
 12:20 3:30 6:40 10:05
Are We There Yet? (PG)
 12:30 2:55 5:20 8:10 10:30
The Assassination of Richard Nixon (R)
 12:05 2:25 4:55 7:15 9:35 12:00a
The Aviator (PG-13)
 12:25 4:00 7:45 11:20
Boogeyman (PG-13)
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Coach Carter (PG-13)
 12:55 4:05 7:10 10:20
Finding Neverland (PG)
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Hide and Seek (R)
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Hitch (PG-13)
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Hotel Rwanda (PG-13)



POOH'S HEFFALUMP MOVIE

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Sideways (R)
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The Wedding Date (PG-13)
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LOEWS UNIVERSAL CINEPLEX
 UNIVERSAL STUDIOS CITYWALK, 407-354-5998
Andrew Lloyd Webber's The Phantom of the Opera (PG-13)
 12:30
Are We There Yet? (PG)
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Assault on Precinct 13 (R)
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Sideways (R)
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The Wedding Date (PG-13)
 12:50 3:15 5:40 7:50 10:15 12:25

ENZIAN CINEMA CAFE
 1300 S. ORLANDO AVE., 407-629-1088
Bad Education (NC-17)
 Friday and Saturday: 3:45 6:30 9:15 12:00a
 Sunday: 1:00 3:45

D.MAC
 39 S. MAGNOLIA AVE., 407-992-1200
Silent Waters (NR)
 Friday and Saturday: 3:30 5:30 7:30 9:30
 Sunday: 3:00 7:00

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RAMBLINGS

THE GEEK LIFE

Valentine's Day enjoyable alone

Every now and then, it's refreshing to just be by yourself

ELIZABETH FERNANDEZ
Staff Writer

This is my first Valentine's Day alone since I was 15, and I find myself relishing it. There is just something so utterly exhausting about feeling so much about some person, about letting them run around your head anywhere they want like they own the place. They come on in, stomp

around here and there kicking up dust and messing up our days with all their sticky tangles of care and affection. They can be comforting at times, with that desire to fall into someone's arms and just feel comfortable as the dawn creeps in through the windows.

Sometimes it's worth it, I guess. When it is as wonderful as that.

Still, I often rebelled inside at the oh so very all-encompassing feelings that take over me when I feel romantic. I tend to be rather extreme in most circumstances, and matters of the heart are no exception as far as I'm concerned. I am not particularly disposed to too much overt gushiness, but I can't help but be a little fiery. And of course I tend to be attracted to people with at

least a little bit of that same spark. When you mix two rather fierce people, you get a heck of a lot of explosive moments. Which I must admit I do not particularly mind for the most part.

No, what I hate most are the normal things, like money and power struggles. I hate weddings, too. I had to go to one

PLEASE SEE **WHY** ON i19

CRAZED INDIE ROBOT

We're Aiken for a good song

Breaking down the worst love song of our time

DIANNA ZISMAN
Staff Writer

The last time we had a romance-themed issue, I unwittingly started a tradition for myself: I analyzed one of the 1990s' worst love songs. When deciding what to ramble on about this week, I thought, "Why should the 1990s have all the fun? There are plenty of recent bad love songs to skewer!" But which one?

As fate would have it, I heard "Invisible," by Clay Aiken (who either looks like a close-cropped Carrot Top or Rocky Dennis, depending on whom you ask). His hit was a very strange song that made you puzzle over just what the hell he was trying to say. So, as a favor to you, I've decided to do that. Enjoy my analysis of "Invisible," and remember: In 2004 the record-buying public wasn't much better than the record-buying public in the 1990s.

Whatcha' doin' tonight/I wish I could be a fly on your wall

Nobody should ever wish to be a fly on a woman's wall. It's not going to be sexy. We're not sitting around talking to our-



COURTESY RCA RECORDS

selves out loud about you. We're eventually going to start singing, and you really don't want to be there for that.

Are you really alone/Still in your dreams/Why can't I bring you into my life

Oh, I get it. He's singing to someone who he knew before the crazy whirlwind of fame whisked him away. I don't know

why he can't bring her into his life. Just pay her to hop onto a jet and fly out to meet him when the tour stops in Akron.

What would it take to make you see that I'm alive

Ignore my previous statement. But, I don't get it. Oh, wait. Okay, maybe Clay is like Darkman, and suffered this horrible accident, and the girl

thinks he's dead but he's just disfigured (a la Rocky Dennis!), and Clay is afraid that she won't like him for the sweet soul that he is.

If I was invisible/Then I could just watch you in your room

Again, it's not fun to stand there and watch women when

PLEASE SEE **HITTING** ON i19

NEAR-LIFE EXPERIENCE

The award goes to ...

MICHAEL LAWRENCE
Staff Writer

Aside from patiently waiting for the premiere of *American Dad*, the real reason I watch the Superbowl is to bask in the capitalist glow of America and judge the hard work and effort spent by heartless ad executives. That's right, it's the second annual Bowlies, the only award show dedicated to Superbowl commercials. With over \$2 million being paid per 30-second spot, someone should give recognition. If actors and advocates of peace are able to get superfluous awards, then why not Madison Avenue's finest? Here we go!

The Big Brother Apple Award for best commercial goes to ...

It was a toss up between Amerique's dead cat and FedEx, but I'm going with FedEx — Burt Reynolds dancing with a bear, plus seven other Superbowl ad clichés. Creative, funny and memorable. It was even better than that other FedEx commercial, *Cast Away*.

The Frasier Crane, It Should Be Funny but Isn't Award goes to ...

Career Builder and its series of ads about a man in an office full of monkeys. They're monkeys. Why am I not laughing? Maybe it's because this year's commercials were so tame that putting monkeys in ads seems more like an act of desperation than a legitimate attempt at being humorous?

The Toby Keith Award for turning jingoism into a commodity goes to ...

Anheuser Busch. You'd have to be pretty drunk to accept sincerity from a beer company! I support the troops as much as anyone, but garbage like this makes me wretch. Who's more manipulative and evil, Busch or Bush? This left a worse taste in my mouth than their crappy beer.

The John Stossel Give Me a Break Award goes to ...

Ford, for its ad in which a group of ravenous bikers flees in terror when it approaches a bar and sees trucks parked outside. The bikers are really scared because they know that those trucks are even more dangerous to the environment than their bikes.

The *Matrix* Revolutions What the Hell Was That All About Award goes to ...

PLEASE SEE **NASCARRRR** ON i19



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